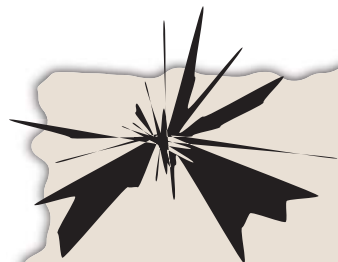




Semiannual IACUC Inspections

Denise K. Capozzi, VMD, DACLAM, Director of Compliance



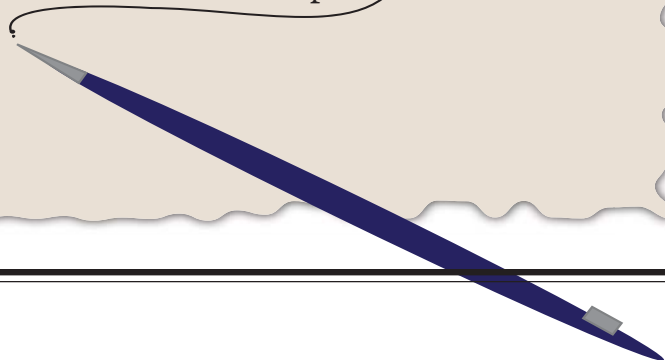
Dear Researchers and Staff,

Each semiannual review cycle, researchers and staff members dedicate time and attention to the IACUC oversight process. Spring 2009 semiannual reviews have concluded, and it is a pleasure to report mostly positive findings across the board.

Everyone involved in the inspection process deserves accolades for your efforts in maintaining consistently high compliance standards for animal welfare. Researchers - I want to thank you for your sincere and conscientious interaction with auditors during inspections. Staff members - I want to thank you for consistently taking the lead as facilitators, guides, and educators.

Fall 2009 semiannual reviews will begin soon, and I look forward to another successful season. Thank you again.

*Sincerely,
Dr. Denise Capozzi*



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Click Here
For Training
Updates

www.iacuc.pitt.edu/Training/IACUTrainingChart.pdf

Rodent Breeding / Weaning

If you maintain a breeding colony, please remember to wean your animals on time based upon the approved weaning period listed in Attachment 5 of your IACUC protocol.

Click here for the full (revised) version of the rodent breeding/weaning policy.



www.iacuc.pitt.edu/sop/RodentBreeding.pdf

Animal Transfers and MTAs

*Frank Jenkins, PhD., IACUC Chair
Associate Professor, Department of Pathology-School of Medicine, Department of Infectious Diseases and Microbiology - School of Public Health, University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute.*

The use of transgenic animals in research has exploded over the last several years. Increasingly, the use of these animals has required an approved Material Transfer Agreement (MTA). The majority of these MTAs stipulate that the animals may only be used by the investigator named in the MTA and that they may not be transferred to other parties. In order to ensure that MTAs are followed, thus protecting both the investigator and the University, the IACUC-approved Animal Transfer Form has been amended to include a section on MTAs. It is the investigator's responsibility to ensure that any animal transferred from their protocol to another investigator's protocol does not violate the terms of an existing MTA.

Health Sciences Library

Melissa Ratajeski, MLIS, RLAT
HSL Faculty Reference Librarian

Books are located within the Health Sciences Library System (www.hsls.pitt.edu) at Falk Library, 200 Scaife Hall, and can be checked out for 3 weeks. To locate more titles of interest, search the card catalog, PittCat, at: <http://pittcat.hsls.pitt.edu>.

New Books of Interest

Animal models of Acute Neurological Injuries
Call Number: RD593 .A55 2009

Chemoarchitectonic Atlas of the Rat Brain
Call Number: q QL937 .C47 2009

Fraud and Misconduct in Biomedical Research
Call Number: R852 .F73 2008

Mouse Models of Developmental Genetic Disease
Call Number: QL951.C976 v.84 2008

Custom Antibody Production

*Frank Jenkins, PhD., IACUC Chair
Associate Professor, Department of Pathology-School
of Medicine, Department of Infectious Diseases and
Microbiology - School of Public Health, University of
Pittsburgh Cancer Institute.*

NIH considers the production of custom antibodies to be animal manipulation and requires approval of this activity by the University IACUC. Custom antibodies are those that the investigator contracts or pays a company to produce (as opposed to “off the shelf” antibodies available to all customers). Thus, if an investigator sends a protein or peptide to a company or pays a company to produce a protein or peptide to serve as antigen for antibody production, that constitutes a custom antibody. The IACUC requires that the company have NIH assurance in order to produce custom antibodies purchased by University funds. Most U.S. companies have this assurance number listed on their web site or it can be obtained by calling the company. The current IACUC protocol form has a section that asks if custom antibodies will be constructed. If the answer is yes, the investigator must provide the company name and NIH assurance

number. Approval of the IACUC protocol constitutes approval for the custom antibody production.

If the investigator decides to have a custom antibody produced, and it is not part of an approved IACUC protocol, then the investigator is required to send an email to the IACUC(iacuc@pitt.edu) identifying the custom antibodies, the name and location of the company, and the NIH assurance number. Once approved, the IACUC office will send the investigator a letter granting approval for the custom antibody production.

Failure to obtain IACUC approval for custom antibody production constitutes a protocol violation and will be investigated by the compliance office and brought to the attention of the IACUC.

WELCOME

Please join us in welcoming Ms. Tracy Bruno, BS, LATG to RCCO's Education and Compliance Office. Tracy will take the lead on Quality Assurance Reviews and will also participate in major aspects of our education and compliance programs.

Welcome aboard, Tracy!

*Congratulations
to CHP researchers and staff
on a successful move into a
beautiful state-of-the-art
building!*



Protocol Renewals and Animal Transfers

*Frank Jenkins, PhD., IACUC Chair
Associate Professor, Department of Pathology-School of Medicine, Department of Infectious Diseases and Microbiology - School of Public Health, University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute.*

We are required to ensure that all animals at the University of Pittsburgh are covered by an IACUC-approved protocol. As a result, it is imperative that IACUC protocols be renewed prior to their expiration dates. Notices of renewal are sent to PIs at 90, 60, and 30-day increments prior to protocol expiration. If a protocol expires and there are animals on site that are covered by the expired protocol, the animals must be confiscated by the DLAR. During confiscation, the research team is denied access to the animals. Upon confiscation, animals may not be manipulated except for routine husbandry. DLAR staff will perform any husbandry, and the PI will be charged for these services. In addition, the per diem rate for holding confiscated animals is higher than normal rates. The increased cost is to cover the additional time and effort expended by DLAR staff. Any costs incurred as a result of confiscating animals cannot be charged to grants and must be borne by departmental funds. An investigator may prevent confiscation by transferring animals to another IACUC approved protocol, but only if 1) the animals to be

transferred belong to the species and strain already approved in the recipient protocol; and 2) the animals have not been previously manipulated. Further, this type of transfer is one way; the animals may not be transferred back to the original protocol once the transfer has been approved.

If a protocol undergoes a three-year renewal, it receives a new protocol number. It is the PI's responsibility to ensure that the cage cards of any animals covered under the renewed protocol are modified to reflect the new protocol number. Further, any animals that belonged to the old protocol must be transferred to the new protocol. This is achieved by submitting a transfer protocol request to the DLAR (transfer@dlar.pitt.edu). Animal transfers must be completed prior to the expiration of the old protocol. Click this link to obtain a transfer request form: www.iacuc.pitt.edu/Forms_DLAR/TransferForm.doc. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding these policies (412-623-3233 / jenkinsfj@upmc.edu).

Fact

Semiannual inspections are required by federal law (PHS Policy IV.B 1-5).

Reminder

Cage cards must be complete and legible.

Reminder

Research groups are responsible for cleaning and sanitizing procedure rooms after each use.

Tip

For DEA questions, contact the Pittsburgh District DEA Office:
1781 McKees Rocks Rd.
Pittsburgh, PA 15136
(412) 777-1870
(412) 777-1880 (fax)

Tip

For lab signage, contact the Education and Compliance Office:
jac73@pitt.edu

Tip

When is it due? The original approval date (year / month) of your IACUC protocol is found in the first four digits of your protocol number. For example, protocol 0701999 was approved January 07. Annual and three-year renewal deadlines are based on the original approval date.