IACUC NEWS
April 2, 2021    Volume 8, Issue 1

1. UCSB is currently in the process of having our vertebrate Animal Care and Use Program re-accredited by AAALAC. Our IACUC recently completed the document review aspect of the accreditation process via Zoom, and we are tentatively planning an in-person site visit by our AAALAC site visitors on June 28-29th. This, of course, depends on the state of the pandemic at that time. The IACUC Coordinator will contact PIs sometime during the spring quarter to begin coordinating visits to their facilities.

2. In 2020, the Office of Research released its new website, including the page for Animal Subjects (IACUC) research. The website has a new address; therefore, most of the links in your protocols to the IACUC website, forms, guidelines, etc. will no longer work. In order to access the IACUC website and current versions of IACUC forms, guidelines, etc., please use the following address: https://www.research.ucsb.edu/animal-subjects/about

3. For field personnel, please note that that a virulent and highly contagious disease in rabbits, Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Virus Serotype 2 (RHDV2), has been detected in six counties in California. CDFW has issued a notice to all SCP and MOU permittees to incorporate a series of measures into their field work to slow the spread of RHDV2. If you conduct field work and have not received or seen a copy of this notice, please contact the IACUC Coordinator immediately.

4. For personnel euthanizing animals with CO2 outside of the ARC facilities, please note that there is new guidance on this procedure in the 2020 AVMA Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals. Of particular importance is the increase in recommended flow rate from 10-30% of the cage volume per minute to 30-70% per minute.

5. Personnel who are providing post-operative care to animals are required to attend the Attending Veterinarian’s Rodent Surgery Seminar, even if they do not conduct the surgery. This seminar is only scheduled when there are people identified that need to attend. If you are performing post-operative care, but have not yet attended this seminar, please inform the IACUC Coordinator immediately.

6. Training for new researchers has resumed. Researcher Training Checklists must be submitted electronically to the IACUC, and a discussion of the training with the IACUC Coordinator will take place via Zoom. Remember that all new animal users must read the protocol(s) they will be working on PRIOR to submitting their Checklist.

7. All OHS evaluation forms must now be sent directly to the OHS Physician at Sansum Clinic. Unfortunately, we are still unable to accept electronic copies of the form, so a hard copy must be sent to the below address. The IACUC will still be notified of any recommendations and the outcome of evaluation.
    Mark Musicant, MD
    Sansum Clinic UCSB OHS Physician
    101 South Patterson Ave.
    Santa Barbara, CA 93111

Reminders Specifically for Animal Users Working in the ARC

1. Remember that only personnel authorized by the IACUC are allowed in the ARC. No visitors allowed. Additionally, it is important that each person remembers to only use their own ACCESS card to enter the ARC.

2. For personnel working with rodents on food or water restriction, remember that these animals’ body weights must be checked at least once per week to ensure their health and well-being.

3. For personnel working with hazardous chemicals, remember to always adhere to the most recent AFSHP provided by the IACUC and/or the Chemical SOP provided by EH&S.

4. For personnel using heat pads to warm rodents that are under anesthesia, remember to place a clean, absorbent, insulating surface (e.g., disposable pad, towel) between the animal and the heat pad. If using an external temperature sensor, this should be placed between the animal and the insulating surface. Additionally, it is important to confirm (e.g., measure with an IR thermometer) that there are no “hot spots” on the pad and that the system’s over-temperature safety setting is working properly prior to use.

5. For personnel working with rats, you may be interested in learning about Rat Tickling, a recently touted technique for handling rats that is said to reduce their stress and make them better research models.

Previous versions of the IACUC Newsletter can be found at: https://www.research.ucsb.edu/animal-subjects/iacuc-newsletter
Changes to IACUC Guidelines and Procedures –
Please update yourself on all Guidelines that are applicable to your work

- **Provision of Adequate Veterinary Care and Reporting Unanticipated Protocol Complications** - Added guidance on the need for a Veterinarian-Client-Patient relationship to provide adequate veterinary care for an animal; and Clarified that reporting animal health issues to the Veterinarian is a requirement

- **Euthanasia of Animals** - Included the use of the 2020 AVMA Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals; Revised the euthanasia descriptions of neonatal rodents and euthanasia via rapid cooling; and Added use of clove oil and benzocaine, and secondary method for ensuring death in fish and amphibians

- **Administration of Therapeutic or Experimental Substances to Animals, Including Non-pharmaceutical-grade or Controlled Substances** - Added compounding instructions for acepromazine and carprofen, removed instructions for lidocaine and bupivacaine, and clarified instructions for meloxicam; Clarified the preparation (compounding) and use of therapeutic drugs (e.g., anesthetics, analgesics, antibiotics, and euthanasia solutions) and non-pharmaceutical-grade experimental substances; and Added the use of an etomidate:xylool cocktail for anesthesia

- **Aseptic Rodent Surgery and Postoperative Care** - Added guidance to the tables on the selection and use of non-pharmacological and pharmacological postoperative support, a requirement that the surgery and postop records will be “regularly” checked by the Campus Veterinarian or designee, and a reminder to be familiar with the operation of a homeothermic heating system prior to use; Updated the pain assessment and alleviation section and rodent postoperative care log; Included the surgery/anesthesia and postoperative care record templates at the end of the document; and Clarified the preparation of surgical instruments and the administration of analgesia via local infiltration

- **Antibody Production** - Added a description about using Gateway Procurement to order custom antibodies

- **Animal Procurement, Transportation, Quarantine, and Preventative Medicine** - Added a section on animal housing and the recommendation to make animal acquisition records available to the IACUC; and Minor clarifications

- **Prolonged Physical Restraint** - Minor clarifications

- **Humane Experimental Endpoints** - Added endpoint guidance for implantation of tumor cells/tissues in rodents; and Minor clarifications

- **Blood and Tissue Collection** - Updated the guidance on serial blood sampling and sampling techniques from the facial vein or submental artery

- **Animal Facilities Disaster Contingency Plan** - Updated the Guideline based on the outcome of the September 2019 power outage; updated the Animal Drinking Water, Aquatic Animal System, Seawater System, Air Handling/HVAC, Illumination, Emergency Power, and Emergency Contact Information sections

- **Evaluation of Complaints of Mistreatment of Animals or IACUC Protocol Non-Compliance** - Added guidance on whether the study may continue during an investigation and a clarification of the notifications to be made after the completion of the investigation

- **Training Requirements for Protocol Personnel** - Added a provision for direct supervision via live video feed and a requirement for personnel providing post-operative care to rodents to attend the Rodent Surgery Seminar

- **Minimum Requirements for Personal Protective Equipment When Working With Research Animals** - Added a provision that additional PPE should be used when conducting in-person training during the COVID-19 pandemic

- **Who Qualifies to Be a PI?** - Added a definition of PIs of Animal Activities

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