

# IACUC NEWS

Distributed by the UCSB IACUC, to Assist UCSB Investigators  
October 15, 2013 Volume 2, Issue 1

## I. Laboratory Matters

### Identification of /Unique Irreplaceable Animals for UCSB's Animal Facility Disaster Plan:

- If you are using animals that are unique/irreplaceable (for example, some genetically manipulated strains), please contact the ARC to identify these animals so that they will be high priority to be maintained, protected or re-located in the event of a disaster. The ARC staff will provide stickers to place on animal cages to identify these animals. Of course, this assumes that the ARC staff has access to these animals in a disaster. Animals that cannot be maintained, protected or relocated from the consequences of a disaster must be humanely euthanized.

### Federal Requirements Regarding Custom Antibody Production:

- According to the NIH Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare: "The generation of custom antibodies is an activity involving vertebrate animals and covered by PHS Policy...In addition, the awardee must provide verification of project-specific IACUC approval for the production of the antibodies." In practical terms, this means that generation of custom antibodies by other institutions or private sector companies requires that the entity generating the antibodies have appropriate vertebrate animal approvals in place (i.e. a PHS Assurance and a USDA Registration). Further, before funds can be released by UCSB for an investigator to order custom antibody generation by an outside institution or company, the UCSB IACUC must confirm that the institution or company possesses a PHS Assurance and USDA Registration. "Custom" antibodies are any antibodies generated by, or at the request of, the investigator (i.e., in contrast to "off-the-shelf" antibodies).
- In order to facilitate the process, the IACUC has created a simple one-page [Custom Antibody Form](#) available on the UCSB IACUC website. Investigators should complete this form and submit it to the IACUC office (Room 1125, BioSci2) prior to ordering custom antibodies.

### New UCOP Policy:

- A new UC-wide Personal Protective Equipment ([PPE](#)) Policy will require all protocol personnel (including students) working with animals in the vivarium and/or PI laboratories to wear closed-toed shoes and long pants (or other clothing covering the legs).....among other things. Supervisors will be responsible for ensuring personnel in their facility adhere to these PPE standards. This policy is designed to help prevent workplace injuries and illnesses and is expected to take effect later this academic year.

### Surgery Proficiency Training:

- All protocol personnel who are, or will be, conducting survival surgical procedures (students, staff, post-docs and PIs) must set-up a time with Dr. Garcia, the Attending Veterinarian (AV) to demonstrate proficiency in those procedures. To schedule a proficiency evaluation, please contact either Dr. Garcia (X7344 or [garcia@lifesci.ucsb.edu](mailto:garcia@lifesci.ucsb.edu)) or Melodie Blakemore at the IACUC office (X5855 or [IACUC@lifesci.ucsb.edu](mailto:IACUC@lifesci.ucsb.edu)).
- Protocol personnel may not conduct survival surgeries until they have completed the proficiency evaluation.

#### Procedure-Specific Training:

- Procedure-specific training must be completed with a qualified surgical trainer in the lab; all trainers will have previously completed a proficiency evaluation with Dr. Garcia or his designee. If you wish to be a lab trainer and have not yet completed your proficiency assessment, please contact Dr. Garcia or the IACUC immediately.

## II. General Reminders

#### Protocols Submissions:

- The IACUC would like to remind all investigators of the importance of submitting well-written protocol applications, which includes not only good science but also paying attention to proper grammar, spelling and punctuation. This is important for at least two reasons. First, it makes the job of reviewing protocols less difficult for IACUC members, who are your colleagues. Secondly, remember that protocols are often requested by community members and organizations under the California Public Records Act (CPRA, code 6250). These documents are “out there” and they have your name on them!

#### Upcoming IACUC Seminar:

- The IACUC will be presenting its quarterly seminar for all new lab personnel using animals in research on Friday October 25<sup>th</sup> from 4-5 PM in Psychology 3834. Attendance is only required once. The purpose of the seminar is to ensure that all animal users understand key aspects of the proper use of animals in research, both technical and regulatory. Attendance is required for all animal users who have not attended the seminar previously. Please be sure to inform all new animal users to attend.

#### Satellite Facility Reporting Reminder:

- Please remember that any unexpected animal deaths, signs of illness or abnormal behavior in animals in satellite facilities must be reported promptly to the attending veterinarian/ARC staff for review and treatment, as necessary.
- Investigators should document all animal procurements and store those records in either a centralized location at their facility or contact the ARC staff to help maintain those procurement records within the ARC.