

University of Washington
September 15, 2022 IACUC Meeting Minutes

Members Present: CC JFI KM MRB
DT JPVH MB MRK
ES JS MK SRH
GS KG

Members Absent:

AB DM
AC JM
AP
AW

Opening Business

- The Floor was opened for public comment at 2:31pm.
- The IACUC Chair called the meeting to order at 2:39pm.

Confirmation of a Quorum and Announcement

- Quorum was confirmed by ZR

Approval of the IACUC Meeting Minutes

- The IACUC Chair called for the approval of the August 25, 2022 meeting minutes.
Motion was made and seconded: to approve the minutes as written.
Further Discussion: *None.*
Vote: Approved with 13 members voting in favor, 0 against and 1 abstention.

Benefit Story/Letter Reading- JS

On August 30, the University of Washington received a letter from the Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare summarizing their findings after a recent on-site inspection of the WA National Primate Research Center facility down in Arizona. This letter was read aloud to the committee. *A full copy of the letter can be found on the UW OAW Other Inspection Reports website where these documents are posted and freely available to members of the public.*

IACUC KG made a motion to send a letter of commendation to the staff at Arizona

Motion was made and seconded: to send a letter of commendation to the staff of the WaNPRC Arizona Breeding Center.

Further Discussion: *None.*

Vote: Approved with 14 members voting in favor, 0 against and 0 abstention.

Attending Veterinarian's Report – CC

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I have checked with the leadership at all sites and have no reportable animal or facility events at any of our other sites or here in Seattle.

Update on Protocol Monitoring

One new protocol was added to vet monitoring this month – this was a mouse protocol added proactively at the time of protocol approval to offer additional support to a new investigator and assist in the development of surgical expertise. At this time, we have a total of 23 protocols with ongoing enhanced monitoring. Of these 23 studies, we continue to have only 5 protocols actively performing the procedure for which they are on monitoring and there are no active concerns about those procedures.

OAW Director's Report – JFI

- **4536-01** -- On September 9th, the group self-reported that on September 6th four mice over 28 days of age were tail snipped for genotyping. Tail snipping of mice older than 28 days is not approved on the IACUC protocol, and anesthesia and analgesia were not used, which would be expected for adult mice due to ossification (bone formation) in the tail. Vet services received a report of blood seen on the side of the cage. On examination, while no mice were actively bleeding, two mice had white tissue visible at the tip of the tail, and further investigation revealed the protocol deviation. In consultation with vet services, the group elected to euthanize all 4 mice.

This individual had completed required UW on-line and hands-on training, had observed someone performing the procedure, and had performed the procedure under observation on mice younger than 28 days without incident, but was not aware of the age limitation in the IACUC policy. The group immediately acknowledged their failure to ensure that this lab member, who had performed tail snipping at other institutions, understood UW IACUC policy with regard to genotyping, or knew how to access and review the protocol in HoverBoard. That individual and others in the lab have now been trained on how to access and review the protocol. The IACUC policy on Genotyping of Laboratory mice has also been shared with all members of the lab who work with mice, and all members have also been asked to take the “Tissue Collection from Mice for Genotyping” e-learning module. The group has submitted an amendment to add ear punch as an option for genotyping mice over 28 days of age.

This is a new lab and does not have a history of instances like this.

The IACUC discussed possible modifications to training to reinforce messaging. This discussion was centered around potential modifications to the training program to ensure that information is better retained by new lab staff.

Motion was made and seconded: to send the PI a letter of counsel

Further Discussion: *None.*

Vote: Approved with 14 members voting in favor, 0 against, 0 abstentions.

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- **4404-01** – Due to a miscalculation by an affiliate lab, on August 9th two macaques received a dose of antibody higher than what is approved in the protocol. For this study, animals are administered a monoclonal antibody that is conjugated with a radio-isotope. The conjugation is performed as a service by an affiliate lab. For two animals, there was a calculation error during that conjugation that resulted in double the concentration of antibody, but the correct concentration of radio-isotope – meaning the animals received a dose of conjugated antibody plus extra unconjugated antibody. The impact of conjugated versus unconjugated antibody is unknown but may have impacted the outcome. Similar work in humans suggests that unconjugated antibody does not create clinical side effects in people. This is the first time this compound has been given at either the intended dose or the inadvertent miscalculated dose so it cannot be determined if the effects would have happened at the lower dose or if the antibody was fully conjugated. This compound has been previously administered at a lower dose, and the animals did develop some biochemical changes on labwork but no clinical signs.

The approved IACUC protocol includes potential side effects of the antibody that include possible hepatic and/or renal compromise as well as immune suppression and includes provisions for supportive care and/or transfusions per veterinary discretion. These two animals did experience side effects that required veterinary intervention, including blood transfusions, and were recently euthanized after reaching their pre-determined study endpoints. Prior to euthanasia, the animals had no visible clinical signs but did remain anemic.

This event has been reported to OLAW.

For corrective actions, the affiliate lab has modified their procedures. Dosages will first be calculated and verified by an excel spreadsheet. Additionally, they have added a verification step in the calculation such that all calculations will be double-checked by a second individual.

Sending a letter of counsel or acknowledgment was discussed. The two animals did have clinical effects, but did continue on study until their endpoint.

Motion was made and seconded: to send the PI a letter of acknowledgment

Further Discussion: *None.*

Vote: Approved with 14 members voting in favor, 0 against, 0 abstentions.

- **4543-01** – On August 26th a cage of 5 wild-type mice were found dead by a husbandry technician. The cage had adequate food present, and water was available. These mice were enrolled in a study looking at the impact of high fat or low-fat diet on adipose tissue cells. The mice arrived in the vivarium on August 3rd. On August 5th, the mice were weighed by the group and then started on low fat diet. The animals underwent all routine husbandry procedures, including daily assessments and scheduled cage changes, but the lab staff did not monitor or weigh the animals between August 5th when low fat diet was started and when the mice were found on August 26th. This was not in alignment with their approved protocol which

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states that mice will be monitored by the lab at least once a week and weighed at least every other week.

The cause of death is not known. A necropsy was not performed due to autolysis. Several other cages of wild-type mice were placed on low fat diet at the same time and continue to be on study without ill effect. The special diet was refreshed by the husbandry technician as anticipated during this time period (the group has a SSR in place for this).

Since this incident occurred, the group has had several discussions with their liaison about the importance of monitoring animals on study and following what is approved in their protocol. The group is following the approved monitoring plan for the mice that remain on study. This event was self-reported to OAW and has been reported to OLAW.

Discussion around putting these frequent issues on the Navigator or adding notes about protocol reading into online trainings.

Discussion around personally delivering this news rather than sending a letter, even letters of acknowledgment. Letters can feel overwhelming for newer labs. However, it is also important to remind them of expectations around working with animals and using animals in research is a privilege.

Motion was made and seconded: to send the PI a letter of acknowledgment
Further Discussion: *None.*
Vote: Approved with 14 members voting in favor, 0 against, 0 abstentions.

Standard Operation Procedures / Policies / Guidelines

- **4 Sets of Standard Procedures for Review– AS**
 - All procedures have no changes - Bone Marrow Aspiration (NHPs), Swab or Cytobrush, Oral (NHPs), Swab or Cytobrush, Rectal (NHPs), Swab or Cytobrush, Vaginal (NHPs)

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Motion was made and seconded: to approve the policies as written.
Further Discussion: *None.*
Vote: Approved with 14 members voting in favor, 0 against, 0 abstentions.

IACUC Training – CC

- Cephalopod Research Oversight Presentation

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Closing Business:

The Meeting was brought to a close at 3:38 pm.