

University of Washington
August 25, 2022 IACUC Meeting Minutes

Members Present: AB ES JS
CC GS KM MRB
DM JFI MB MRK
DT JPVH SRH

Members Absent: AC
AP
AW MK – 2:54pm
GS
KG
JM

Opening Business

- The Floor was opened for public comment at 2:31pm.
- The IACUC Chair called the meeting to order at 2:43pm.

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 July 21, 2022 meeting minutes.
Motion was made and seconded: to approve the minutes as written.
Further Discussion: None
Vote: Approved with 11 members voting in favor, 0 against and 3 abstentions.

Benefit Story - JS

For this month's benefit story I am going to provide an update on one of the ongoing efforts to fight COVID here at UW. Over the past 3 years, we have come to appreciate the need for a variety of vaccines with different features that are optimized for different conditions. Researchers at UW's Institute for Protein Design have developed a novel COVID vaccine called SKYCOVIONE that can be transported and stored at refrigerator temperatures, unlike the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines, which need to be kept much colder. This feature vastly extends the opportunities to vaccinate people living in parts of the world where freezer storage is a challenge.

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The key to this vaccine's temperature stability is in its packaging. In contrast to mRNA-based vaccines, this one is protein-based. An earlier Benefit Story focused on the robust immune response and absence of side effects when this vaccine was tested in mice and a monkey. The temperature stability is an additional benefit with important implications for global health. A recently completed clinical trial has now extended the findings from animals to humans, and the SKYCovione vaccine was approved in June for use in South Korea. SKYCovione is now awaiting approval by the World Health Organization for international distribution by COVAX, a world-wide collaborative whose goal is 'to guarantee fair and equitable access for every country in the world'. Kudos to the King lab and the Institute for Protein Design for their part in this humanitarian effort.

Attending Veterinarian's Report – CC

- One adverse animal event for the committee this month.
 - A cage of 5 mice succumbed to hyperthermia on 6/29/2022. The cage was placed under a heat lamp to warm the animals in preparation for a tail vein injection. Although uncommon practice, this is an allowable method for this technique. In this case, the individual responsible for the mice left them unattended and when she returned to perform the procedure, the mice had expired. The individual reported the incident to the PI of the lab who self-reported it to OAW. We have reported the incident to OLAW.
 - We have confirmed the technician individual was properly trained and very experienced. To my knowledge, this was the first incident of this nature for this PI. However, given the egregious nature of the incident, I would like to motion for a letter of reprimand for the PI to ensure the seriousness of the issue is conveyed.

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

Further Discussion: *None.*

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

- One reportable facility events for the committee.
 - One indoor housing room at the Arizona site experienced a temperature excursion in mid-July. Per the Animal Welfare Act, temperatures in an indoor housing room cannot exceed 85° F for more than 4 consecutive hours. From July 14th through July 18th, temperatures in this room did experience temperatures outside of this range intermittently. The longest continuous duration of increased temperatures was 9.5 hours. The maximum temperature at any point was 88.28° F degrees for less than 30 minutes (the frequency at which temperatures are recorded). The temperature monitoring system was working correctly, and all appropriate staff were notified immediately of the temperature deviation. The initial response included activation of the third HVAC system (a back-up system available in the event of failure) and addition of floor fans to the room. All HVAC systems were evaluated, first by onsite facilities

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- staff and then by an outside vendor but both groups found the units to function properly. By 7/16, temperatures had improved slightly but remained above 85° F for a portion of the day. At this time, onsite staff further evaluated the system, and it was decided to change how a supplemental A/C unit was venting out of the room to see if that would help. This supplemental unit had been added to the room approximately 6 months earlier as a precautionary measure and had been functioning very well. The unit vented out through the same channel the HVAC used. A partition was added to further separate the outflow from the intake air inside the duct system. This was completed on 7/18. Temperatures dropped below 85° F after the 13:00 timepoint on 7/18 and have not exceeded the maximum temperature since that time.
- During this time period, 7 or fewer animals were housed in this room and were monitored at increased frequency by staff. No health concerns were noted secondary to elevated temperatures as such temperatures are not outside the normal comfort zone for this species. Animals had continuous ad lib access to water and received extra enrichment (including frozen produce and other frozen treats) during this time period. The USDA and OLAW were contacted regarding this event.
- 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 so a novel procedure could be assessed as it was developed. At this time, we have a total of 22 protocols with ongoing enhanced monitoring. Of these 22 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.
 - Other announcements
 - I have recently been made aware of a concern regarding an employee with repeat violations over the past 3 years that involve challenging veterinary authority, disregarding veterinary directives for treatment and/or euthanasia, and a lack of attention to detail that have led to negative animal welfare impacts. All incidents have been reported to the IACUC as they have occurred, and action taken as appropriate. After discussing the issues with the individual and with the current PI, it is my opinion that continuing to allow this person to work with animals creates an unacceptable risk to our animal care and welfare program, and I have revoked that person's animal use privileges. The individual has been removed from all animal care and use protocols, and badge access to all animal areas has been deactivated. The PI and the individual have been notified of this action and this is now being handled via personnel actions outside the purview of the IACUC. Due to the confidential nature of personnel actions, there will be no more information to share on this topic.

IACUC Member MK entered at 2:54PM.

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- There was a request to provide the IACUC with an update on an issue that arose last year regarding an apparent increase in the number of mouse cages being found without food available. A pilot study has been implemented in one facility changing the process to have cages pre-filled with food by husbandry staff and made available for research staff within the animal rooms. Overall, we feel this program has been successful in this building, but we do not yet have data compiled to share. Disadvantages to date include increased food wastage and some confusion when animals are maintained on non-standard chow. An additional update will be provided once more definitive data is available, within 3 months.

- Lastly, I wanted to inform the members of the IACUC that we have recently hosted a number of USDA visits. They were onsite both in Seattle and in Arizona on 4 different dates in the past 2 months to perform focused inspections in response to an external complaint filed with them. As part of those visits, they reviewed many nonhuman primate necropsy and medical records as well as multiple other documents and had discussions with multiple members of staff. No non-compliances were noted, and those reports are available on our public-facing webpage.

From Arizona - CC

- Facilities items: none
- Adverse events: none

OAW Director's Report – JFI

- IACUC metrics – The metrics are posted under Supporting Documents in the meeting folder.
- Training Updates – Partnering with subject matter experts in both DCM and WaNPRC, our instructional designer assisted them in creating and publishing Emergency and Contingency Awareness eLearning lessons that they can provide to their existing and future staff. The instructional designer utilized the newer eLearning development tools and learning management system to leverage learning tracking and documentation.
- Other updates – Responses to Letters & Other Follow up:
 - 4190-01 - The IACUC sent a letter of counsel to the PI regarding an incident in which an unapproved substance was administered to mice. The letter asked specifically for steps that would be taken in the future to reduce the risk of unexpected mortality, if the substance is added to the protocol and used in future experiments. The PI responded that, in addition to checking the protocol prior to initiating experiments, they will use this agent at a lower dose, have multiple people check the calculations, and closely monitor the mice.

The Committee had no further questions or comments.

- 4266-01 – The IACUC sent a letter of acknowledgement to the PI regarding an incident in which animals were used for training procedures without first transferring the mice to the training protocol as intended. The PI responded confirming that they received the letter and shared it with their lab.

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The Committee had no further questions or comments.

- Non-compliances – None to report

Standard Operation Procedures / Policies / Guidelines

- **Standard Procedures for Review – AS**
 - List of the standard procedures for IACUC review:
 - Antibiotics, Prophylactic Surgical, WaNPRC Standard, Cephalosporins; Irradiation, Low Dose, for Hematopoietic Cell Transplant (Linear Accelerator); Irradiation, Moderate to Lethal Dose, for Hematopoietic Cell Transplant (Linear Accelerator) – these three are all in NHPs and have no changes
 - Biopsy, Vaginal Mucosa – in NHPs, this procedure did have changes around clarifying language around anesthesia

Motion was made and seconded: to approve all standard procedures as written.

Further Discussion: *None.*

Vote: Approved with 13 members voting in favor, 0 against, 1 abstentions.

- **Policies – JFI**
 - **Surgical Training Policy**
 - Surgery Training Requirements – Language was added to clarify that remote site staff will receive equivalent training to what is described.

Motion was made and seconded: to approve the policy as written.

Further Discussion: *None.*

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

- **Animal Adoption Policy**
 - Animal Adoption/Retirement Policy – This policy was due for its routine review. It was updated to add language describing adoption to rehoming organizations, such as animal sanctuaries. Other minor updates were made to language throughout

Motion was made and seconded: to approve the policy as written.

Further Discussion: *None.*

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

- **Frog Oocyte Harvest Policy**
 - Frog Oocyte Harvest – This policy was due for its routine review. Revisions were made to the descriptions of pre-operative fasting, sterilization of instruments, and surgical skin preparation, and references were updated.

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Motion was made and seconded: to approve the policy as written.

Further Discussion: *None.*

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

Closing Business:

The Meeting was brought to a close at 3:02pm.