

University of Washington  
December 15, 2022 IACUC Meeting Minutes

Members Present: AB GL KG MRK  
CC JFI MB MS  
DT JPVH MK SP  
GS JS MRB

Members Absent: AP JM  
AW SRH  
DM  
ES

**Opening Business**

- The Floor was opened for public comment at 2:30pm.
- The IACUC Chair called the meeting to order at 2:36 pm.

**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 November 17, 2022 meeting minutes.

Motion was made and seconded: to approve the minutes with the changes read by CC.

Further Discussion: none

Vote: Approved with 13 members voting in favor, 0 against and 2 abstentions.

**Attending Veterinarian's Report – CC**

- I have checked with the leadership at all sites.
- I have one reportable adverse animal event to report. On December 2nd, 6 mouse cages were found without any food present in ARCF. The cages had been transferred between two labs on 11/29 as part of a larger group of cages and were documented to have received food on the day of transfer. At the time of discovery, 3 mice were found deceased and several others were noted to be lethargic and dehydrated. All ill mice were treated by veterinary staff and made a full recovery. The husbandry staff confirmed doing daily checks but no one noted the

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absence of food. The research staff member that placed the cages stated they were confident that food had been placed in the cages upon transfer. As a precaution, our training team is retraining the lab staff to ensure that food is offered in adequate amounts. We have discussed the process for daily health checks with the husbandry supervisor and reviewed the documentation of health checks for this room. We found no discrepancies in the process or documentation. Additional details about this particular incident cannot be obtained as the animal technician responsible for doing daily health checks is no longer employed at the UW. This event has been reported to OLAW.

- I also have one facility issue to share with you. On 11/9, one NHP housing room was noted for having the lights left on overnight. The lights are on a timer and on automatic monitoring via sensor. The lights are scheduled to turn off automatically every night at 1900. On this night, the lights did not turn fully off as programmed and upon review of data were found to have been partially on all night long. Vet staff was notified in the morning and there were not apparent negative impacts on any of the animals. The room did alarm but the timing of the alarms did not match the scheduled lights-out times and was not responded to by facilities. We have discussed the alarm response plan with the facilities team. We have been unable to determine the cause of the malfunction. The issue has not recurred in this or any other rooms. We continue to monitor all rooms closely for additional issues.

### **Update on Protocol Monitoring**

- We added one additional protocol to veterinary monitoring. This was a mouse protocol added proactively at the time of protocol approval to provide enhanced support to developing a new model. At this time, we have a total of 25 protocols with ongoing enhanced monitoring. Of these 25 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.

### **Announcements**

- A few months ago, we asked for volunteers to participate in an investigation that had been requested by OLAW. The investigation was completed and all findings submitted to OLAW as requested. OLAW has responded to our investigation noting that with the following statement: ". . . the University of Washington and the affiliated WaNPRC located in Arizona is compliant with the provisions of the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals and continues to report incidents to this Office as appropriate." Thank you to those who participated in the investigation.
- I also wanted to remind everyone about the new Committee for Procedure Assessment & Policy Refinement. As a reminder, this group will provide guidance and expertise to the IACUC on various matters related to animal care and use policies and procedures. We will start meeting in January and will collectively determine which topics to tackle first. IACUC

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members will receive an email after this meeting – if you are interested in being involved, please reply to that email so you can be added to the list.

- Lastly, I am excited to announce the implementation of our mock site visit room. There is a mock space set up in G117 for members to practice inspections. We've set this up with a virtual site visit “host” for the space so you can go anytime that works for you. It should only take ~10 minutes to complete your “inspection” of the space. Stop into the AUTS office to pick up a key to access the room. Then, use your net ID to log in on the tablet in the room, ask questions of your host, and note your findings. Detailed instructions will be in the room for you. Our tentative plan is to redesign the room, possibly quarterly, to stage new deficiencies and set up new learning opportunities. The room will be open in early January for your use; you will get an email when it's ready so hopefully at least some of you will have the opportunity to check it out before the next meeting.

#### **OAW Director's Report – JFI**

- **IACUC metrics** – The metrics are posted under Supporting Documents in the meeting folder.
- **Training Updates** – None to report
- **Other updates** – None to report
- **Responses to Letters & Other Follow up** – None to report
- **Noncompliance** - None to report

#### **Standard Operation Procedures / Policies / Guidelines**

- Multiple Procedures for Review (Batch) – **AS**
  - *There are 29 standard procedures with changes and 2 without changes. They include general clarification and inclusive language around procedures for euthanasia, anesthesia and surgery for a variety of species, including Rats, Song Birds, NHP's, Fish, Chickens, and Dogs.*

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

Further Discussion: none

Vote: Approved with 14 members voting in favor, 0 against, 1 abstention.

#### **IACUC Training – CC**

- AAALAC International Presentation

## **Semiannual Program Review – Group Reports**

### **Group 1. IACUC Function, IACUC Composition, IACUC Processes and Training, Institutional Reporting**

We found no deficiencies in any section and felt all line items were ‘Acceptable’ with the exception of the final bullet point in Section 5, regarding multiple major surgeries across protocols, which we marked Not Applicable after confirming we have no exemptions for this.

We did discuss a few topics more deeply that relate to these sections. In Section 3, for ‘Continuing IACUC oversight after initial protocol approval is in place’, our group unanimously felt that we have a strong, multifaceted, interdepartmental program for Post-Approval Monitoring. However, this program is not formalized or documented in a clear, concise manner. We recommend consideration of the formalization of the PAM program to ensure we capture everything we already do.

We also had much discussion around training – both for IACUC members and staff overall. In particular, we discussed the challenges of evaluating the effectiveness of the staff training program (Section 3). We unanimously felt that the animal training program is robust and complete, but we struggled with establishing metrics to evaluate the *effectiveness* of the program and we did consider that, although we each individually have confidence in the program, the committee as a whole may wish to seek more frequent and regular updates. After discussion, we did learn that several changes are in process that may be beneficial in this goal – in particular, course evaluations have been revised and implemented for all required basic training that assess both the content of course and the presentation of the materials. The training department is also creating an evaluation to be sent several months after the course to determine if trainees have additional feedback after beginning their animal work. This information could serve as a direct method to assess training effectiveness from the trainee-perspective. In addition, the committee already does, and should continue to, monitor non-compliances and adverse events as an indirect method of assessing the effectiveness of the training program.

Lastly, we discussed training for IACUC members. We reached out to new committee members and it was reported that each of them felt that their initial onboarding was complete and mentors were made available for their ongoing learning. As such, we unanimously felt that our training program met all requirements and was ‘Acceptable’ for the purposes of this review. However, in discussion with longer term members, there does seem to be a desire for even more learning opportunities. At the last program review, it was recommended that we consider enhancing the training program for IACUC members to include things like mock protocol review and mock site visit inspections. As discussed earlier in this meeting, we have recreated a room for mock site visits which will be “open” beginning in January for all IACUC members and will be an ongoing part of IACUC member training. We still encourage the development of mock protocol review sessions for interested members. In addition, some members feel it would be helpful to have more guided, specific discussions regarding the existing policies and more

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information about pertinent regulations. We encourage the incorporation of these types of training exercises as appropriate. We also encourage the continued support/involvement of workshops and conferences such as NWABR and other IACUC trainings/webinars for interested members.

**Group 2. Veterinary Care**

Found to be acceptable, no suggestions for improvement.

**Group 3. Animal Care and Use Program, Personnel Security, Investigating & Reporting Animal Welfare Concerns, Disaster Planning and Emergency Preparedness**

Found to be acceptable, no suggestions for improvement.

It is noted that significant progress has been made by OAW over the past year to ensure that disaster plans are in place for lab-managed spaces. During outreach efforts, OAW staff provided animal users with APHIS form 7093 Contingency Planning Program for use as an optional template.

IACUC site visitors are encouraged to ask about contingency/disaster plans during site visits.

Suggestion for improvement: Additional training for IACUC members regarding what should be included in a contingency plan, and what questions to ask on site visits.

Announcement by AV – There is an available electronic presentation with a virtual inspection and it offers several suggested questions to ask during a site visit. All IACUC members are strongly encouraged to do this training session. A link will be sent after today's meeting.

**Group 4. IACUC Protocol Review**

Our group determined that our ability to perform protocol review is acceptable and no deficiencies were noted.

We noted that the official checklist refers to written records for food or fluid restricted animals, even though electronic versions of those these records are now common. There is currently a Special Note at the bottom of all IACUC Site Visit Schedules reminding visitors to check Food/Fluid restriction logs and this should continue. Research teams that maintain electronic logs should make them readily accessible to site visitors. If electronic logs are not available, this should be noted as a deficiency on the site visit report.

Based on this, we recommend that the check list -related to logs for food or fluid restricted animals be updated to indicate written or electronic logs should be made available to site visitors.

**Group 5. Personnel Qualifications and Training, Occupational Health and Safety of Personnel**

Found to be acceptable, no suggestions for improvement.

**Closing Business:**

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The Meeting was brought to a close at 3:22 pm.