

University of Washington  
May 19, 2022 IACUC Meeting Minutes

Members Present: AB ES KG MRB  
AC GS KM MRK  
AW JFI MB SRH  
CC JPVH MK  
CM JS

Members Absent:

AP  
DM JM  
ME

### Opening Business

- The Floor was opened for public comment at 2:33pm.
- The IACUC Chair called the meeting to order at 2:41pm.

### Confirmation of a Quorum and Announcement

- Quorum was confirmed by ZR.
- The new Attending Veterinarian was welcomed

### Approval of the IACUC Meeting Minutes

- The IACUC Chair called for the approval of the April 21, 2022 meeting minutes.  
Motion was made and seconded: to approve the minutes as written.  
Further Discussion: *None.*  
Vote: Approved with 16 members voting in favor, 0 against and 1 abstentions.

### Attending Veterinarian's Report/OAW Director's Report – CC

#### Facility Events

- On April 24<sup>th</sup>, there was a power surge that caused one of the HVAC systems to go offline at approximately 0800. At 0848, the temperature in one mouse room temporarily went out of the desired range, peaking at 0.75 degrees above the top of the desired range. Temperature was back within range at the next check (0900). No other rooms went out of range. The HVAC monitoring system was repaired and fully functional by 11:30. There were no adverse effects to the affected animals.

#### Adverse events

- None to report

#### Protocol Monitoring

- Two new protocols were added to vet monitoring last month for a total of 23 with ongoing enhanced monitoring. Of the 23 on monitoring at this time, 5 have ongoing

University of Washington  
May 19, 2022 IACUC Meeting Minutes

activities directly related to the reason for monitoring. These 5 are all surgical studies in which the PI is working with DVMs for surgical refinements. The remaining 18 protocols are a combination of protocols involving surgery, novel procedures, prolonged anesthesia

**From Arizona – CM**

- Facilities items: None
- Adverse events: None

**OAW Director’s Report – JFI/AS**

**Training program updates** – We have deployed 2 new updated courses, “working with mice” and “working with rats”. They are complementary courses with a lot of the same content, but they contain some unique information and unique exams due to the differences between these species.

**IACUC metrics** – The metrics are posted under Supporting Documents in the meeting folder.

**Protocol Non-compliances** –

**3062-01** – It was self-reported on April 27<sup>th</sup> that 123 mice over the previous ~14 months had received a dose of tamoxifen that was higher than the dose approved in the protocol. Tamoxifen is a drug that is widely used in research involving transgenic mice, to induce conditional genetic modification. The group and vet services noticed an increase in animal mortality in March of this year, at which time vet services informed them of the dose range approved in their protocol and told them to use a lower dose than they had been administering. It is unclear if the increase in mortality was directly related to the high dose of tamoxifen. The group continued to use the higher-than-approved dose in additional cohorts of mice after that conversation took place. Upon discovering this, the PI self-reported this information to OAW. She believes the error occurred because she consulted an old saved version of the protocol rather than the version currently approved in HoverBoard. Also, the continued use of the higher dose after discussion with vet services was due to a miscommunication between her and the member of her lab that was performing the injections.

The PI has taken several corrective actions, including directing all lab members to refer to the protocol in HoverBoard when starting new experiments, and improving communication in her group by being more direct in her expectations, agreeing on action items, and sharing written summaries of phone conversations.

**This has been reported to OLAW.**

*IACUC Members asked why the PI wasn’t referring to their protocol in HoverBoard. The PI had said they were just in the habit of referring to their old documents and it wouldn’t happen going forward.*

Motion was made and seconded: to send a Letter of Counsel.

Further Discussion: None.

Vote: Approved with 17 members voting in favor, 0 against, 0 abstentions.

**2153-08** – On April 16<sup>th</sup>, tail samples for genotyping were collected from 8 mice older than 28 days of age. This procedure was performed without the use of anesthesia or analgesia, as required by the IACUC’S policy on “Genotyping of Laboratory Mice”. The student performing

University of Washington  
May 19, 2022 IACUC Meeting Minutes

this procedure also failed to adequately cauterize the tail. Tailing of adult mice is not approved on the lab's protocol. The mice were evaluated and treated by vet services, with all mice making a full recovery. The student is relatively new to the lab (joined ~6 months ago) and was trained to do genotyping.

In response, the student involved has asked not to continue performing this procedure in the future. Additionally, all other individuals involved in colony maintenance have been re-trained on appropriate genotyping methods. The lab's protocol is currently undergoing a triennial review. The group has refined the genotyping options described in the protocol, including ear punches for adult mice and tailing (with appropriate anesthesia and analgesia) when larger DNA samples are required to confirm genotype.

This event was self-reported to OAW on April 20<sup>th</sup>.

**This event has been reported to OLAW.**

*This group has not had any issues in the recent past and no recurring issues. It seemed like there was general miscommunication around the lab about what type of genotyping was allowed. There will be follow up with this lab and individual about who trained this person and how they were trained and who authorized the decision to tail the mice. The IACUC will revisit this incident at the June meeting.*

**Friday Harbor Laboratories (FHL)** – OAW received an anonymous concern related to the care of paralarval octopuses that were collected in late March and early April at FHL. A paralarval octopus is the life stage between hatching and subadult - these are tiny little organisms about the size of a grain of rice that float up from the nest and live amongst the plankton for about 1-3 months. They are also known as planktonic larvae.

An investigation into the allegations was headed by the Attending Veterinarian, and included the IACUC Chair and one of the OAW directors. The investigation focused on determining if the work with paralarval octopus was covered by an IACUC protocol (and if not, should it have been covered), and if the housing conditions and euthanasia methods employed were appropriate. We reviewed the literature, reached out to local, national and international cephalopod researchers, and met via Zoom with several individuals with relevant knowledge about various aspects of the reported concern. It was determined that the paralarval octopuses were housed in an approved animal facility, and the husbandry and euthanasia methods used were in line with current standards of care for this species. There was, however, no protocol covering this work, which is not in accordance with our institutional policy. This has been reported to our IO, and will be reported to AAALAC.

Appropriate individuals at FHL are now working with OAW to develop a protocol that will cover cephalopod research at the marine station, and the related cephalopod work at FHL has stopped until the protocol is approved. We are also working with the leadership at FHL to ensure investigators and students will be educated regarding appropriate handling of all covered species at FHL.

*The decision was made that Cephalopods would be covered after hatching. It was also noted that FHL has struggled in recent years with getting protocols in place in a timely manner to support work being performed by visiting scientists and courses. The committee discussed the challenges unique to this facility due to frequent visiting scientists and student activities. The committee agreed that additional follow-up could be helpful, including increasing the frequency of liaison*

University of Washington  
May 19, 2022 IACUC Meeting Minutes

*check-ins and site visits to FHL, and timing those check-ins and visits as seasonal course work and new research are getting ready to begin.*

Motion was made and seconded: to send a Letter of Counsel to the Director of FHL.

Further Discussion: *None.*

Vote: Approved with 17 members voting in favor, 0 against, 0 abstentions.

**Standard Operation Procedures / Policies / Guidelines**

- Standard Procedures Review – AS
  - A dozen standard procedures are up for review this month and there were no changes to any. The procedures are in the meeting documents.

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

Further Discussion: none

Vote: Approved with 17 members voting in favor, 0 against, 0 abstentions.

**Other Business**

**Semiannual Report – BE**

- BE will be assigning small groups to do program review to be ready for the June meeting

**Closing Business:**

The Meeting was brought to a close at 3:27pm.