

University of Washington  
November 17, 2022 IACUC Meeting Minutes

Members Present: AB GL KG MK  
AP GS MB SRH  
CC JFI 2:49PM MS  
DT JPVH  
ES JS

Members Absent: AW KM  
DM MRB  
JM MRK

### Opening Business

- The Floor was opened for public comment at 2:32pm.
- 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 September 15, 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 abstentions.

### Benefit Story – JS

- Over the past few years we have learned that the key to a successful vaccine is a good target that elicits a strong immune reaction. This target is often a protein found at high levels on the surface of a pathogenic virus or bacteria, like the Spike protein that is targeted by Covid vaccines. Researchers at the UW are applying the same principle to the development of vaccines against certain cancers.

This month's benefit story is about the development of a vaccine treatment for prostate cancer. Three candidate targets were chosen for testing in mice. These target proteins are all upregulated in human prostate cancer cells and are predicted to elicit a strong immune response. Each of the three vaccines significantly inhibited the growth of prostate tumors when given on its own, but the best results were obtained when animals were immunized against all three proteins at once. Animals that were vaccinated with this multi-antigenic

University of Washington  
November 17, 2022 IACUC Meeting Minutes

vaccine had significantly smaller prostate tumors compared to control animals and they had significantly improved survival rates.

There have been encouraging results from a recently completed Phase I clinical trial using a similar multi-antigen vaccine against breast cancer that the same UW research team previously vetted in mice. I look forward to seeing how the multi-antigenic prostate cancer vaccine fares in clinical trials in the years ahead.

*Cecil et al., 'Anti-tumor activity of a T-helper 1 multiantigen vaccine in a murine model of prostate cancer' Scientific Reports (2022)*

### **Attending Veterinarian's Report – CC**

- 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 over the past 2 months – this was a mouse protocol added proactively at the time of protocol approval to assess impact of proposed injection schedule. At this time, we have a total of 24 protocols with ongoing enhanced monitoring. Of these 24 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**

- I am excited to announce the establishment of a new subcommittee. This is an idea I've been working on for several months, and we've now finalized the scope of this group and are ready to solicit interested members.

This new committee is called: **Committee for Procedure Assessment & Policy Refinement**

We will meet as needed to provide guidance or expertise to the IACUC on matters related to animal care and use policies and procedures.

Subcommittee composition may vary dependent on the topic to be discussed and may consist of voting or non-voting IACUC members, laboratory animal veterinarians, animal technicians, scientists, and/or other subject matter experts.

**I do want to emphasize the limitations of this committee** - this group may not vote on official IACUC business, we won't be approving protocols, policies, or procedures. We

University of Washington  
November 17, 2022 IACUC Meeting Minutes

may choose to draft or revise guidelines or policies but these must be submitted to the IACUC for review and can only be approved by a majority vote of a quorum of IACUC members.

I already have a list of things I'm excited to take on with this group.

If you are interested in participating, please reach out to me.

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

- 11 Standard Procedures for Review– AS
  - 6 procedures have no changes; 5 procedures have changes (Transponder and Apheresis - see meeting documents for complete breakdown of procedures including a summary of changes made)

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

Further Discussion: *None.*

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

### **IACUC Training – CC**

- Socialization of NHP's

\*IACUC JFI joined at 2:49PM\*

### **Semiannual Program Review – BE**

### **OAW Director's Report – JFI**

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

- **Responses to Letters & Other Follow up**

1. A response was received regarding a letter of reprimand that was sent by the IACUC following an incident in which one cage of mice succumbed to hyperthermia. In their response, the PI acknowledged the egregious nature of the incident, and detailed the corrective measures that have been taken. These include emphasizing that animals cannot be left unattended, and eliminating the use of heat lamps in favor of recirculating hot water pads for maintaining body temperature, and warm water or

University of Washington  
November 17, 2022 IACUC Meeting Minutes

warming gel pads for warming tails prior to tail vein injection. They are also providing supplemental and refresher training for their team. The PI also noted that the individual who made this error no longer works in the lab.

2. A response was received regarding a letter of counsel that was sent by the IACUC following an incident in which 4 mice older than 28 days of age were tail snipped without appropriate anesthesia or analgesia. The PI confirmed that several corrective actions have been taken, including reviewing the protocol and related IACUC policy with all lab members, asking all members to take the eLearning module titled “Tissue Collection from Mice for Genotyping,” and updating the protocol to include ear punch as an option for genotyping older animals.

- **Noncompliance**

- **4448-02**

This group performs field studies on song birds, and the protocol is approved to briefly hand restrain the birds in order to attach a telemetry tag via an elastic leg harness. Starting in September of this year, the group refined their tagging method to utilize a restraint cylinder (rather than manual restraint) and replaced the leg harness with a temporary tail feather tag. This tagging method is known to have fewer behavioral impacts on the animals and falls off without intervention after a few weeks. However, the group implemented this change without first acquiring IACUC approval. 15 birds were tagged using this method before the oversight was detected. The group promptly submitted an amendment to add the option to tag animals using this glue method. The group indicated that the oversight was a result of miscommunication between the PI and postdoc in terms of what was approved in the protocol. The OAW liaison is working with the group to brainstorm ways to improve communication and prevent similar oversights in the future.

During IACUC discussion it was established that the duration of restraint is brief and not longer than the previous hand restraint. The new temporary tag is thought to be an improvement over previous leg harness tagging, thus this is considered a refinement. A Letter of Acknowledgment was considered, to remind the PI of the importance of adhering to the protocol and submitting changes for approval before implementing refinements. Committee also discussed sending a Letter of Commendation to the person who caught the discrepancy during grant congruence review.

Motion was made and seconded: to Send a Letter of Acknowledgment to the PI AND a Letter of Commendation to the individual in OAW who caught this.

Vote: Approved with 15 members voting in favor, 0 against, 0 abstentions.

University of Washington  
November 17, 2022 IACUC Meeting Minutes

**4531-04**

This protocol examines the mechanisms underlying decision making. Animals enrolled in this study are water regulated while performing behavioral task. On Monday 10/31, it was discovered that a rhesus macaque did not receive his daily ration of water on the preceding Friday (10/28). The animal was not noted to have any abnormalities on Saturday or Sunday, and was provided produce and water on both Saturday and Sunday. Upon discovering the missed water, the animal was assessed by a veterinarian, sedated for bloodwork, and provided fluids. No abnormalities were noted on exam or in the bloodwork. All animals on study were placed on ad lib water while the process for providing water was reviewed. In this lab, animals were scheduled to receive water by the lab on weekdays and by husbandry technicians on other days. On days where husbandry was to provide water, the water was prepped by the research team and left in a specific location to be hung on the cage on specified days. Watering was recorded in a lab notebook.

Changes to the process include that lab staff, not husbandry, will be responsible for provision of water on all days rather than splitting the task between husbandry and research staff. For all labs practicing water regulation, it will now be required to document the provision of water on a posted form on the door. Husbandry staff will be expected to verify that water is provided to all animals daily as part of their daily room checks. Contact information for lab staff will be on the form so husbandry staff can contact them if there are any questions. If the form is not filled out and the research team cannot be reached, husbandry staff will be instructed to offer water to the animals.

**This incident was reported to the USDA and OLAW.**

During IACUC discussion, it was noted that this was initially discovered by the weekend husbandry individual and reported to the Veterinarian. The current water regulation policy ensures that animals cannot go more than 24 hours without water even if water provision is slightly delayed due to testing schedules. It was noted that this particular lab was dividing the responsibility between lab staff and husbandry staff which was not the standard practice.

As part of our response, all labs are now using the same process for which team provides water on all days. We have made it easier for staff in the room to confirm that animals have been watered . All protocols are being reviewed and if needed, will be modified to specify the standard process that will be followed by all labs. We continue to explore technology that may allow for automatic alerts and further enhance our monitoring plan for this.

It was also discussed that we need to ensure that husbandry staff are empowered to provide water to animals if they cannot confirm that animals have received their required amounts. The AV confirmed that this was discussed with the husbandry supervisor and all staff know how to respond to any animal concerns on all days of the week. It is also

University of Washington  
November 17, 2022 IACUC Meeting Minutes

specified on the door form exactly what to do if the form is not filled out – including numbers to call and what to do if calls are not answered.

There is no record of previous non-compliances with this group.

Motion was made and seconded: to send a letter of Counsel to the group

Further Discussion: *None.*

Vote: Approved with 15 members voting in favor, 0 against, 0 abstentions.

**Closing Business:**

The Meeting was brought to a close at 3:24pm.