

University of Washington
August 20, 2020 IACUC Meeting Minutes

Members Present:	AB	FRR	KG	SL
	AF*	GS	KS	SRH
	CM*	JM	MB	
	DM	JPVH	MK	
		JS	ML	
Members Absent:	AW	JA	KAG	

*AF alternating for CM until 3:57 PM

Opening Business

- The IACUC Chair called the meeting to order at 2:30 pm.

Confirmation of a Quorum and Announcement

- Quorum was confirmed by AW.

Other Business

- Site Visits Update
 - *Reminder to keep a 6-ft distance whenever possible during site visits.*

IACUC Training

- Animal Models of Neuromuscular Disease
DM presented on dog models with XL-MTM. Committee members asked questions pertaining to the research.

Other Business

- Presentation & Discussion on Exercise for Duchene Muscular Dystrophy Rats
BB presented rat model of DMD.

Approval of the IACUC Meeting Minutes

- The IACUC Chair called for the approval of the July 16, 2020 meeting minutes.
Motion was made and seconded: to approve the minutes as written.
Further Discussion: *None.*
Vote: Approved with 15 members voting in favor, 0 against and 0 abstentions.

Benefit Story

- We are all aware of the desperate need for a safe, effective SARS-CoV-2 vaccine that will allow our lives to return to some semblance of normalcy. Given the current level of skepticism about vaccines in this country, it is absolutely critical that SARS-CoV-2 vaccines are thoroughly tested before people will have the confidence to get inoculated in sufficient numbers to rein in this pandemic. The only

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way that this can happen rapidly is with testing in animals done in parallel with clinical trials being carried out in humans.

Deb Fuller's research team has been leading a collaborative effort to test one candidate vaccine. Building on the group's past experience with vaccine development, they designed their SARS-CoV-2 vaccine to deliver self-replicating RNA that rapidly exposes the body to high levels of a key SARS-CoV-2 protein that can trigger a strong immune response to protect against future infection.

The first experiments were done on mice and showed that a single intramuscular dose of the candidate vaccine could elicit robust production in both young and old mice of antibodies that reacted against SARS-CoV-2 virus. Encouraged by these results, testing moved from mice to monkeys.

Before being assigned to the Covid study, monkeys are tested for the virus, as are any monkeys in our colony that show respiratory symptoms. Newly arriving NHPs are also tested while they are in quarantine. Animals are tested for active infections, as well as for antibodies indicating prior exposure. To date, there have been no positive test results for any animals indicating that the Primate Center's practices to prevent infection have been effective.

Monkeys that received the candidate vaccine produced high levels of virus-neutralizing antibodies in a little over a week and showed no adverse effects over the next 70 days. These very promising findings were published earlier this month in *Science Translational Medicine*.

The next step will be to perform so-called 'challenge' studies, to see whether monkeys that have received the candidate vaccine can fight off Covid when intentionally exposed to the virus. This part of the study will be performed at a different site and no monkeys will be challenged with SARS-CoV-2 at UW. I look forward to hearing about the results in the near future and hope to pass along more good news soon.

'An *Alphavirus*-derived replicon RNA vaccine induces SARS-CoV-2 neutralizing antibody and T cell responses in mice and nonhuman primates' Erasmus et al. *Science Translational Medicine* (2020)

Attending Veterinarian's/OAW Director's Report - KS

- Adoptions – 2 non-genetically modified rats adopted out in the last month.
- IACUC metrics- see meeting documents
- HoverBoard upgrade has been delayed until early November. Training for OAW and IACUC members will be end of September/October.
- Implementation of new rodent CO2 euthanasia flow rate update: All the CO2 flow meters have been retro-fitted and installed in all DCM managed spaces. ARCF – 2 stations are updated and working

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with the 50% displacement – 3 are temporarily shut down and new valves have been ordered. LSB – Stations are installed and testing will be finished before any rodent moves into that facility (probably early September).

- Semi-annual report was sent to the IO at the end of July.
- Facility issues:
 - Lighting – There have been sporadic ARCF lighting relay issues where the lights never turn all the way off in a room. This normally results in the low level lights staying on in that room at night until one of the facilities staff can cycle them in the system manually. This has been a known issue since shortly after the facility was occupied. No one has been able to identify the cause of the intermittent relay failures and therefore, a repair hasn't been implemented. The number of failures has been very small, and unless the conditions worsens substantially, the plan is to continue to respond to alarms and correct the problem in a timely manner.
Committee asked if researchers are aware of this, and the AV responded that they have been made aware.
- Protocol Monitoring:
 - Twenty-one total protocols. Of the protocols, 11 involve surgery, two restraint (and sx), one conscious restraint, 1 tumor modeling, 4 miscellaneous (tape skirt, infection, water quality). Eight are inactive right now. One protocol has been removed from monitoring as the lab will not be doing the procedure that lead to it being placed on monitoring, and the experiment involving that procedure has been removed from the protocol. There is another protocol with a different PI that contains the same procedure and the PI wants to keep it on their protocol but has no plans to do the procedure in the foreseeable future. Therefore, this protocol has been placed on inactive status until they plan on performing that procedure. One protocol has been added as it involves a new PI and protocol. This protocol has several challenging surgical models and several of the lab members need surgery certification.
- Adverse Events:
 - 4391-01: 5 out of 5 mice in a cage were found dead in SLU 3.1. Cage was not fully seated in the Allentown rack, so they had no access to water. (if red dot is visible on the rack slot, then the cage isn't fully seated in the rack). Lab group had been checking their mice in this room 3 days prior to them being found dead but doesn't remember specifically pulling the cage out of the rack. In addition, DCM animal technicians failed to notice that cage wasn't fully in the rack over that weekend. Corrective Action: Both the lab group and the animal technicians were re-trained to ensure that cages are fully engaged in the rack as signified by no red dot is being visible.

Reported to OLAW

The committee members asked about room lighting affecting the visibility of the rack light. The AV stated that it can be hard to see in some of the corners of the room but personnel should also feel a click when pushing the cage all the way into the rack.

Motion was made and seconded: to send a letter of counsel to the group and DCM.

Further Discussion: None.

Vote: Approved with 12 members voting in favor, 2 against and 1 abstention.

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- 4326-02: 5 of 5 newly weaned mice were found dead in their cage in SLU 3.1. There was gel present on the cage floor, a “gel toggle” sign on the cage, but no food pellets were present anywhere within the cage including the food hopper. The lab group weaned these mice 4 days prior them being found dead and the animal technician in the room did not noticed that there was no food in the hopper. Corrective action: The lab has been reminded of the proper protocol for weaning mice and have been asked to double-check all new cages following weaning before leaving the room. The husbandry supervisor has retrained the animal technician in charge of that room to check for food in the hoppers.

Reported to OLAW.

The committee members asked about both adverse events happening in SLU 3.1. These 2 events occurred in different rooms and involved different animal technicians. The AV said neither lab has a history of other adverse events. The Chair asked if a letter of counsel may be necessary, and some members agreed that there should be a letter of counsel for both adverse events.

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 and 0 abstentions.

- Non-compliance:

- 4290-01: PI response to Letter of Counsel
 - PI has reviewed the breeding page of their IACUC protocol and the IACUC Genotyping of Laboratory Mice policy with all lab members. They have arranged ear punch training for one lab member and assigned them as the point person for all ear punching in the lab when adult mice need to be genotyped.
The lab was responsive with the liaison and will not be performing tail-tipping in the future. The committee had no further questions or comments.

3:56PM IACUC member entered and alternate member left

- From Arizona
 - Facilities items: No items to report.
 - Adverse events: No adverse events to report.

Closing Business:

The Meeting was brought to a close at 4:00 pm. The floor was opened to public comment.