

University of Washington
DECEMBER 14, 2023 IACUC Meeting Minutes

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|------------------|----|------|----|-----|
| Members Present: | AP | GL | JS | MRB |
| | | | JT | |
| | AW | GW | KG | MS |
| | CC | JFI | MB | |
| | | JPVH | MK | |

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|-----------------|----|----|-----|
| Members Absent: | AB | GS | MRK |
| | DM | | |

Total Members Present: 14

Opening Business

- The Floor was opened for public comment at 2:31 pm.
- The IACUC Chair called the meeting to order at 2:40 pm.

Confirmation of a Quorum and Announcement

- Quorum was confirmed by LM.

Approval of the IACUC Meeting Minutes

- The IACUC Chair called for the approval of the NOVEMBER 16, 2023 meeting minutes.
Motion was made and seconded: to approve the minutes as written.
Further Discussion: none
Vote: Approved with 14 members voting in favor, 0 against and 0 abstentions.

Benefit Story – AS & JS

We want to share an exciting new initiative with all of you – the IO, OAW Director, and others are working to create a center focused on the 3Rs at UW. The University is already doing some amazing work in this space, and we are looking to formalize and expand those efforts with the creation of this center. As a first step towards this broader goal, we've established a 3Rs Pilot Funding program that aims to support work on the replacement, reduction, and/or refinement of the use of animals in research. This funding mechanism will provide up to \$10,000 for up to 5 proposals. Funding for this program was generously provided by the Provost and Vice Provost for Research. Our 3Rs committee solicited applications this past fall. We received a total of 13 applications, and after review and much discussion selected the 5 winning proposals. As part of receiving this funding these groups will present the results of their work at a 3Rs symposium that is planned for June. The winning projects include:

- *One that will explore whether mice prefer to recover from surgery alone or in the company of another mouse.*

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- *One that will create a circulatory system on a chip to study hemorrhagic shock, eventually replacing animal models.*
- *One that will harness the power of AI to accurately identify cell cycle stage without the need for genetically modified mice or specialized stains, reducing animal numbers.*
- *One that aims to refine a common procedure with the novel localization of a nerve block.*
- *One that will develop an in vitro model of human testes to replace the use of rodents to study sperm function and reproductive toxicology*

Attending Veterinarian's Report – CC

I have checked with the leadership at all sites and have no adverse events to report at this time.

Protocol Monitoring

We currently have 23 protocols on enhanced veterinary monitoring. Of these 23 protocols, 16 of them were placed on monitoring proactively at the time of procedure approval to provide enhanced support during development or implementation of complex procedures. The other 7 were placed on monitoring following an unexpected outcome. Of the 23 protocols, 7 of them are currently performing the procedure for which they are on monitoring. All PIs on monitoring continue to work with their veterinary monitor.

Announcements and Follow-Up Information

CLATR has published a new optional training for Special Services Request (SSR) Submission. The training is targeted toward labs that need to submit SSRs to DCM husbandry, but it really clarifies what we should be expecting during site visits. I would encourage all IACUC members to take it as I found it to be a very helpful reminder of PI obligations for animals on SSR. The training is only ~7-8 minutes in length and the link is available on the CLATR website.

OAW staff will connect IACUC members with this updated training course from the CLATR website.

OAW Director's Report – JFI

IACUC metrics – IACUC metrics are in the meeting folder

USDA Inspection - On November 28th and 29th, the USDA conducted a routine inspection of our animal program. After inspection of facilities and review of records, the USDA inspectors identified no non-compliant items. The USDA Inspection Report has been posted on the OAW website.

AAALAC Accreditation - We have also received our accreditation letter from AAALAC International. We are pleased to announce that UW has received continued full accreditation. This status is contingent on implementation of measures to ensure that agents are used and labeled appropriately and discarded prior to expiration, as well as methodology to ensure that identified deficiencies are addressed as part of program review. The program has already taken several steps to address this contingency, including a mandatory training for all animal users, which I will provide an update on momentarily. The accreditation letter commended the University for maintaining a high-quality animal care program and recognized members from across our community, including our knowledgeable and hardworking animal care staff, a committed IACUC with well-trained members, an excellent training program, and an impressive non-human primate program. They also highlighted the collaborative and collegial culture within our program. The

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accreditation letter has been posted on the OAW website. Thank you all for all that you do in your various roles to support our program.

Expired Substances Training – As you know, a new mandatory e-learning module was deployed in October, and all members of the animal care and use program were enrolled. Over 1,900 people have completed this training. The deadline for completion has now passed, and we will be removing personnel from IACUC protocols and removing facility access for people who have not completed the training. The list of individuals who have not completed the training includes 16 Principal Investigators. These individuals have received numerous reminder emails and follow-up. My question for the committee is, how do we want to handle PIs that have not completed this training requirement?

DISCUSSION/QUESTIONS: IACUC members had a robust discussion around the communication that PIs have received to date, and the pros and cons of various follow up actions. The committee emphasized the need to clearly communicate a deadline and the risk of protocol suspension to any PI that fails to complete the mandatory training. The committee requested an update on this topic at the January IACUC meeting.

Motion was made and seconded: to send a letter of Reprimand to each PI who has not completed the training, followed by a phone call from the Chair

Further Discussion: none

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

Site visit training – I mentioned last month that we would be sending out a survey related to IACUC site visits, to seek feedback from the committee. I just wanted to assure you all that this has not been forgotten and you should see that in the next week or so.

Policies

Species Specific Training Policy – CC

I have revised the IACUC Policy for Species-Specific Training Requirements. A copy, with changes tracked, was provided in the Supporting Documents for this meeting. Changes to the policy included the following:

- Updated title from Species Specific Training Policy for Researchers Using Animals to Species Specific Training Requirements to broaden the scope beyond researchers
- Removed language relating to historic timelines when training requirements were initiated as it was no longer applicable
- Generalized the description into three groups of animals (rodents, primates, and non-rodent/non-primate animals) rather than having dedicated paragraphs by species since the requirements are consistent within these groups
- Updated references from AUTS to CLATR and included links to the training requirements section of the CLATR website

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- Included reference to the Surgery Training Requirements Policy for clarity

Number of Mice in a Breeding Cage FAQ - JFI

The IACUC has an approved Guideline called “Number of Mice Maintained in a Breeding Cage FAQ”. This is a supplemental document to the approved IACUC Policy called “Number of Mice Maintained in a Breeding Cage”. OAW is currently redesigning our website, and we are proposing to move this FAQ information from the IACUC Policies and Guidelines page, to the FAQ page. To facilitate this, we are requesting that the IACUC shift this document from being an approved IACUC Guideline to being OAW-managed content. The associated Policy will remain a Policy. To help with this discussion I’d like to provide a brief explanation of what an IACUC Policy is, what an IACUC Guideline is, and what it would mean to make this no longer an IACUC Guideline.

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An **IACUC Policy** is a document that establishes a rule or principle that applies broadly to animal care and use at UW. IACUC Policies are generally based on regulatory requirements or veterinary standards of care, and deviations from an IACUC Policy require scientific justification in the IACUC protocol. IACUC Policies are approved at a convened meeting of the IACUC and must be reviewed by the IACUC on a regular schedule. At UW we review IACUC policies approximately every 3 years. Any changes to an IACUC Policy must be reviewed and approved by the IACUC prior to implementing that change.

An **IACUC Guideline** is a document that is intended to provide IACUC-endorsed guidance and reference information to assist investigators when writing their IACUC protocols and conducting their research. Deviations from an IACUC Guideline do not necessarily require scientific justification, although justification may be requested by the IACUC during review of the protocol on a case-by-case basis. While IACUC Guidelines are initially approved at a convened meeting of the IACUC, they may be updated or revised as needed by the Office of Animal Welfare without requiring IACUC approval, although changes are reported to the IACUC at the next meeting. This allows for more nimble updating of reference information to current standards.

At any time, any member of the IACUC may request a full committee review of an approved IACUC Policy or Guideline.

By making the “Number of Mice Maintained in a Breeding Cage FAQ” OAW-managed content rather than an IACUC Guideline, we could move it to a location on our website where we think it will be more helpful for our research community. IACUC members are always welcome to review any content on the OAW website and bring any questions or concerns about content to the attention of OAW or the IACUC for discussion.

- Number of Mice Maintained in a Cage FAQ– **JFI**
 - *Statement#1: Change the guideline to be OAW managed content*
 - *Statement#2: Movement of this FAQ to a different point of the OAW website*

Motion was made and seconded: to change the guideline from being an IACUC guideline to a policy on the OAW website.

Further Discussion: *none*

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

Semi-Annual Report – BE

Request for groups to send in a written document of your findings to BE.

“For the program review, the IACUC was split into groups and each group evaluated different aspects of the program as categorized in a modified OLAW program review checklist. Each group provided a summary of their discussions and provided their feedback and suggestions for improvement. These will be incorporated into the draft semi-annual report to be reviewed at the July meeting.

ZR presented a diagram of site visit findings by type over the past 6 month period.”

Site Visits - ZR

Data on concerns and deficiencies in the past 3 years. Thank you to all that is participating in these visits.

ZR presented data on this year’s site visit deficiencies, broken down into the two halves of the year, compared with the 2021 and 2022 data.

The Chair wants the committee members to be aware of this data so they know what to look most closely at during site visits.

The IACUC agreed that it would be helpful for ZR to present this information at every semi-annual.

Closing Business:

The Meeting was brought to a close at 3:38 pm.