

University of Washington
January 18th, 2024 IACUC Meeting Minutes

Members Present: AB GL JS MB
 AP GS JT
 CC GW KG
 AW JFI
 JPVH MK

Members Absent: DM MRB MRK

Total members: 14

Opening Business

- The Floor was opened for public comment at 2:31 pm.
- The IACUC Chair called the meeting to order at 2:35 pm.

Confirmation of a Quorum and Announcement

- Quorum was confirmed by JS.

Approval of the IACUC Meeting Minutes

- The IACUC Chair called for the approval of the December 14th meeting minutes.
Motion was made and seconded: to approve the minutes as *amended by CC*
Further Discussion: *To revise the meeting minutes draft to include those changes as in the supporting documents*
Vote: Approved with 12 members voting in favor, 0 against and 2 abstentions.

Attending Veterinarian's Report – CC

I have checked with the leadership at all sites and have two adverse events to report.

Protocol number: 4376-01

On 11/22/2023, a 3-week-old male pup was found dead above the wire top of a duo breeder cage, with only the breeder pair and no other pups remaining in the cage. The researcher last handled the cage on 11/20/23 where all 5 of the pups in this cage were intended to be euthanized. It is unknown how the pup was left on top of the cage as placement there is not part of the transfer/euthanasia process as demonstrated by the lab staff. A definitive cause of death could not be determined. The researcher underwent appropriate cage handling and rodent euthanasia re-training before being allowed to handle animals again.

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This has been reported to OLAW.

Discussion: *Discussion took place on further details about this incident including:*

- *The state of the cage (construction and integrity)*
- *Which other labs are using this shared space*
- *Who had euthanized the 5 pups from the cage noted above*
- *Has this group received a letter of reprimand before (no).*
- *How was this reported – lab self reported to CC*

Further discussion took place of the response of a letter when responsibility cannot be definitively assigned.

Discussion ended with no motions

On December 22nd, the water system in an aquatics facility on campus was hacked, leaving the system disabled. This attack appears to have targeted a programmable logic controller, which is a commonly used component in these types of systems. It does not appear that the attack was motivated by anti-animal research groups. At the time of the attack, ~11,000 fish were impacted. Individuals at the facility immediately contacted representatives from the IACUC, Animal Care and Use Program, UW IT, and the system owner. Return of function of the system took several days. During that time, tanks had to be maintained as static tanks requiring manual water quality checks, manual titration of chemicals, and frequent water changes. It was unfortunately necessary to humanely euthanize a number of animals to minimize risk of spontaneous death. Approximately 7000 fish were selected for euthanasia while 4000 fish were maintained by dedicated staff working nearly around the clock to test and change water as needed. The controller was successfully reinstalled on December 26, and the facility began slowly rebuilding the system and gradually converting tanks from static back to a recirculating system, which took over a week to complete. Other than the planned euthanasia, mortality numbers were consistent with numbers seen when the system is functioning normally.

The incident was reported to OLAW, AAALAC, and the FBI (due to the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act). All other lab animal facilities on campus were evaluated for risk of similar events, and we continue to work with the FBI to identify and minimize those risks.

Discussion:

Sending a letter of commendation to the lab and all involved, an immense amount of work done by the team over by holidays times.

- Letter of Commendation – CC

Motion was made and seconded: to send a letter of commendation to the members involved in the stabilization of the animals affected by this situation

Further Discussion: none

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

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Protocol Monitoring

We currently have 24 protocols on enhanced veterinary monitoring. Of these 24 protocols, 17 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 24 protocols, 8 of them are currently performing the procedure for which they are on monitoring. All PIs on monitoring continue to work with their veterinary monitor.

OAW Director's Report – JFI

IACUC metrics – IACUC metrics are in the meeting folder

NWABR – The Northwest Association for Biomedical Research (NWABR) is holding their annual IACUC conference on February 29th. The conference will be in a hybrid format allowing attendees to attend either in person or virtually. The conference venue is the Seattle Children's Research Institute in downtown Seattle. If you're interested in attending please contact OAW. OAW will cover the cost of registration for IACUC members that want to attend.

Expired Substances Training – At the December meeting, it was reported to the committee that 16 Principal Investigators had not completed the mandatory Expired Substance training. The committee voted to send PIs that had not completed the training a letter of reprimand and requested an update at this meeting. Following that meeting, OAW liaisons contacted PIs to inform them of the IACUC action. Between the time of that communication, and the time of drafting and sending the letter the following week, all but 5 PIs had completed the training. A letter of reprimand was sent to 5 PIs. One PI responded by closing their protocol, and the other 4 PIs completed the training within one day of sending the letter. All Principal Investigators of active protocols have now completed this training requirement.

Site visit training – On Monday 1/8 we sent out a survey to all IACUC members and alternatives related to facility inspections. Thank you for those who have completed that survey. If you haven't yet, I encourage you to complete it, regardless of whether or how frequently you participate in facility inspections. The results of that survey will be reviewed by OAW staff and the chair to help identify ways to better support you all and our program. I will send out a reminder following this meeting.

Response to Letters

4038-01 – At the November 2023 meeting, a noncompliance was reported to the committee in which 20 mice were euthanized via a method that was not approved on the protocol, although it was an AVMA-approved method. The individual that performed the procedure was acting in the role of a core service, although a member of the lab was also present. The IACUC voted to send two letters of counsel, one to the PI and the lab member involved, and a second letter to the director of the core.

We received responses to both letters.

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The PI responded acknowledging that there was insufficient training of lab members regarding protocol compliance as well as where the approved procedures could be found. They indicated that they have met with the core director, core personnel, and their OAW liaison to discuss the incident, and that they will implement a process for reviewing the protocol ahead of experiments to avoid recurrence.

The director of the core responded indicating several corrective actions that they have taken, including modifying the service request form to list all procedures that will be performed, the associated IACUC protocol, clearly indicate the endpoint of service and whether the animal will be returned or euthanized, and indicate the method of euthanasia if applicable. They have reviewed the updated procedures and policies with core personnel.

3380-02 – At the July 2023 IACUC meeting a noncompliance was reported to the committee in which a cohort of 5 mice was administered expired buprenorphine after having undergone skin biopsy and prior to UVB exposure. The buprenorphine was a dilution that had been prepared by vet services. The mice exhibited no clinical signs of pain or irritation and were euthanized at scheduled endpoint. The IACUC voted to send a letter of counsel. The delay between then and now was primarily due to some additional clarification that was required between all parties in terms of the event and corrective actions (OAW, the Attending Veterinarian, veterinary services which prepared the dilution, and the PI). The PI has now responded to that letter and has indicated that they have reminded all staff of the importance of checking expiration dates, and that all staff have completed the new expired substance training module. All lab members have also reviewed the IACUC Policy titled “Expiration Date Management for Medical Supplies, Equipment, and Substances”. The PI also indicated that they no longer obtain larger vials from vet services, and instead only receive small aliquots to be used on the day of or day following acquisition, to avoid such issues in the future.

Noncompliance: None to report

Standard Operation Procedures / Policies / Guidelines

Standard Procedures for MRI and cerebrospinal fluid collection in non-human primates – **AS**

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

Further Discussion: *none*

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

Semi-Annual Program Review

The final draft of the semi-annual report to the IO is attached to the meeting. I will remind you that this is a report from the IACUC to the Institutional Official, so please read the report and let OAW know if you have any questions, concerns, comments, or suggestions, or if you would like to submit a minority opinion.

OAW will send out a request for concurrence via email within the next week. Please be prepared to respond promptly since the report is due to the IO by the end of the month.

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Closing Business:

The Meeting was brought to a close at 3:06 pm.