



Berkeley Animal Care News

December 2012
Volume 1
Issue 4

Animal Care and Use Committee (ACUC)
acuc@berkeley.edu

(510) 642 - 8855
www.acuc.berkeley.edu

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Dear Campus Animal Users,

As this semester draws to a close, we wanted to highlight two recent issues--one here at UCB and the other at UCSF--that are relevant to animal research on campus.

At the recent AAALAC site visit exit meeting, the AAALAC team was very complimentary about our animal care and use program, the condition of our facilities, and our recently improved occupational health and safety program for people working with animals. The lead site visitor recommended that our program be formally re-accredited in January with exemplary status. This good preliminary news is thanks to your efforts, as well as the coordination with the ACUC, OACU, OLAC, Physical Plant staff, EH&S, and the Vice Chancellor for Research.

RESOURCES

- 1 Animal Care and Use Committee (ACUC)
<http://www.acuc.berkeley.edu/>
- 2 Office for Animal Care and Use (OACU)
<http://www.olac.berkeley.edu/>
- 3 Office for Laboratory Animal Care (OLAC)
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A recent article in the [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (November 25, 2012) emphasizes our need to work closely with you to facilitate research while protecting animal welfare. More specifically, this article emphasized the enhanced regulatory stance of the USDA, unlike AAALAC, routinely conducts unannounced site visits. According to the article, "David Sacks, a USDA spokesman...called the Animal Welfare Act a baseline and said institutions "have to follow protocols *to the letter.*" (*our emphasis*). As ACUC/OACU/OLAC adjusts to this new regulatory environment, we ask for both understanding and input from you on finding ways to meet this increased burden while maintaining our excellence in both research and teaching involving animals.

Cordially,

Bill Sha, ACUC Chair
Eileen Lacey, ACUC Vice Chair



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Updates to the Website

The OACU recently updated the ACUC website. We added the webpage, "[Are You New to UC Berkeley?](#)" to guide new investigators that intend to use animal subjects in their research. A Quick Guide summarizing relevant offices, committees, programs, and available services on campus is also available at the bottom of the webpage.

Additionally, we reorganized the "[Policies and Guidelines](#)" webpage to make information more accessible. The ACUC/OACU also updated all of the existing policies and guidelines, and developed new guidance documents in consultation with OLAC. Some of the new documents include:

- Policies on:
 - Animal Care and Use Program
 - Testing Biologicals Used in Laboratory Rodents
 - Use of Non-Pharmaceutical Grade Compounds
 - Change in Animal Ownership
- Guidelines on:
 - Reporting Suspected Deficiencies in Animal Care or Treatment
 - Blood Collection Techniques and Limits
 - Dosing Techniques and Limits
 - Environmental Enrichment Plan
 - Justification of Animal Numbers
 - Literature Searches for Alternatives

To assist investigators when writing or revising the Animal Use Protocol, we developed two new guidelines: Justification of Animal Numbers and Literature Searches for Alternatives. For help with Attachment A, the "[Justification of Animal Numbers](#)" guideline outlines the scientific justification required by the ACUC and regulatory agencies for different types of studies as well as links to free statistical software/calculators/equations and published literature on statistical justification of animal numbers. The "[Literature Searches for Alternatives](#)" guideline will provide assistance with Attachments B and C. In addition to providing example searches/keywords and online resources that are specific to animal welfare, this document also provides instructions and helpful tips on how to do a literature search.



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Educational Outreach

The OACU is initiating an educational outreach program, similar to that offered by the Office for the Protection of Human Subjects (OPHS) for investigators using human subjects in their research. If you have a particular group--such as your lab or seminar class--that you think might benefit from a face-to-face presentation and Q&A session about animal research and compliance, please contact Dr. Becky Armstrong, (Director of the OACU) with your request and/or for more information.

Open Position in the Office for Animal Care and Use

The ACUC is the institutional committee charged with reviewing and approving all proposed uses of live vertebrate animals in teaching and research. The OACU provides the administrative infrastructure required to support the committee's work to review, approve, and administer those activities

The Research Compliance Analyst 2/3 position involves the staffing, administering or managing oversight and compliance committee activities related to animal research. This individual will review research protocols for use in specific fields, assist in writing and reviewing protocols, and ensure compliance with federal, state and University mandated laws, regulations, and policies.

For more information regarding the position please visit [Berkeley Jobs](#), Job ID: 14931.



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Recent Honors of our Researchers!

Kunxin Luo, Professor of Molecular and Cell Biology, was awarded the distinction of [Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science \(AAAS\)](#). AAAS peers nominate and elect the honor to recognize their efforts in the scientific and social applications of science.

Carolyn Bertozzi, Professor of Chemistry and Professor of Molecular and Cell Biology, was awarded the [Heinrich Wieland Prize](#). The international Heinrich Wieland Prize honors outstanding research on biologically active substances and systems and their clinical importance in the fields of chemistry, biochemistry and physiology.

David Wake, Professor Emeritus of Integrative Biology, received this year's [Fellows' Medal](#), the highest honor of the California Academy of Sciences. Additionally, wildlife ecologist **Justin Brashares**, Associate Professor of Environmental Science, Policy and Management was among the 10 newly elected fellows of the academy.

[Congratulations on your recent achievements!](#) Please let us know of your accomplishments or publications so we can feature you in a future issue of our newsletter!