



Berkeley Animal Care News

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

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Message from the Chairs

As many of you know, a nation-wide search is underway for an Attending Veterinarian (AV) and Director of the Office for Laboratory Animal Care (OLAC). In the interim, Dr. Cliff Roberts has stepped in as acting AV and OLAC Director. Cliff is board-certified in Laboratory Animal Medicine, and served for many years as AV at UCSF. We are both fortunate and grateful that Cliff is able to step in and provide support and leadership.

We have just completed the first year of our three-year transition into the eProtocol system. When you are notified of your upcoming *de novo* submission deadline, please contact Jennifer Lee in the Office for Animal Care and Use (OACU) to schedule an appointment for a one-on-one orientation to the new system (jmlee3@berkeley.edu or 642-3884). The feedback on this individualized approach has been overwhelmingly positive, and can save you time in the end. And remember: it's not too soon to start!

The ACUC will also be working with PIs this fall to prepare for our accreditation site visit by the Association for Assessment and Accreditation for Laboratory Animal Care (AAALAC). AAALAC visits the campus every three years for a comprehensive evaluation of the animal care and use program. AAALAC granted UCB a delay in our visit due to the interim status of both our Institutional Official, Chris McKee, and AV, Cliff Roberts. We are optimistic that both of these positions will be permanently filled when we are visited.

Kind regards,

Bill Sha
ACUC Chair

Eileen Lacey
ACUC Vice Chair

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ACUC Pre-approved Procedures

The ACUC, in conjunction with the OLAC veterinary staff, is starting to write “pre-approved procedures” which describe common laboratory animal procedures. These templates are reviewed and approved by the committee, and can be used when writing protocols or amendments. The descriptions provide researchers with quick and easy guidance on how to describe and perform common procedures. PI’s may still utilize alternative procedures, but the use of the pre-approved procedures will expedite protocol review.

The ACUC pre-approved procedures can be found on the OLAC web site (CalNet ID required): OLAC > Veterinary Care > Pre-Approved Procedures:

<http://www.olac.berkeley.edu/?q=veterinary-care/pre-approved-procedures>

AAALAC Site Visit Rescheduled to Spring 2016

The Association for Assessment and Accreditation for Laboratory Animal Care (AAALAC) will be conducting a review of the UC Berkeley animal care and use program, which will include a **site visit during the spring of 2016** (Jan-Mar). ACUC, OACU and OLAC will be working closely with investigators this fall/winter to prepare for a successful visit. For further guidance, please see the [“How to Prepare for an AAALAC Site Visit” Self-assessment Checklist](#) on the ACUC website. For questions, please contact the OACU at 642-8855 or acuc@berkeley.edu.

Amending Your eProtocol?

The eProtocol system insures version control by only allowing one Amendment review at a time. Once a PI submits an Amendment for review, another Amendment cannot be submitted until the first one is approved. If you are planning to revise your protocol, please contact the OACU to discuss the best submission strategies. Some reviews, such as adding personnel or updating funding sources, can be handled administratively. Other types of changes may involve Designated Member Review (DMR) or will need to go to a convened meeting for Full Committee Review (FCR). Depending on the type of changes and the time line involved, the OACU can advise the PI on the best strategy to minimize turn-around times when submitting amendments.

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OLAC Training Update

With the recent addition of a Training Coordinator, there have been many changes to the OLAC Training program.

Basic Safety Training and Facility Orientation: OLAC has expanded the Basic Safety Training and Facility Orientation to include *all* OLAC animal facilities. *All* researchers must attend *both* a **Basic Safety Training** and a separate **OLAC Animal Facility Orientation** *before* gaining card key access to the animal facilities. Training dates and instructions for how to sign up are posted at <http://www.olac.berkeley.edu> under the "Training" tab.

Basic Safety Training: The safety training for new researchers and students is taken first and includes an orientation from an OLAC vet, basic safety, emergency procedures, hazardous materials safety, and an introduction to the biohazard containment facility for BL2 and BL3 users.

Annual Basic Safety Refresher Training is an online course available through the UC Learning Center via the Blu portal (<https://blu.berkeley.edu>).

OLAC Animal Facility Orientation: The animal facility orientation is taken after the basic safety training. The training includes a tour of the facility; meeting key staff; learning locations of: supplies, procedure rooms, safety equipment, and exit routes; required Personal Protective Equipment (PPE); foot traffic patterns; facility policies; and facility signage.

Specialized Work: Additional training and occupational health screening may be required if you will be working with certain species or hazards. Please see the **New Researcher/Student Checklist** on the OLAC web site for more information (<http://www.olac.berkeley.edu/?q=checklist>).

Rodent Handling and Methodology Workshop: OLAC is offering a workshop each semester that includes hands-on instruction on basic handling and research techniques, such as injections, blood collection and euthanasia. Training dates and instructions for how to sign up are posted at <http://www.olac.berkeley.edu> under the "Training" tab.

For more information, check the [OLAC training web site](#), the [New Researcher/Student Checklist](#), or contact OLAC at 2-9232 or olac@berkeley.edu.

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NSF Enters into MOU with NIH

Effective October 1, 2015, the NIH Office for Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) and the National Science Foundation (NSF) now operate under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to ensure consistent and effective oversight of the welfare of animals used in activities funded by the NSF. The agreement provides a framework to enhance communication and harmonize the agencies' efforts while reducing regulatory burden to supported institutions. The MOU is posted at http://grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/references/mou_nsf.htm

Institutions receiving NSF support must:

- include NSF-supported activities with live vertebrate animals as covered activities in their OLAW Animal Welfare Assurance; and
- promptly report situations involving NSF-supported animal activities to OLAW as required by the Public Health Service (PHS) Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals ([Policy](#)) Section [IV.F.3](#). This includes circumstances and actions taken with respect to:
 - any serious or continuing noncompliance with the PHS Policy;
 - any serious deviation from the provisions of the [Guide for Care and Use of Laboratory Animals \(the Guide\)](#); or
 - any suspension of an activity or protocol by the Animal Care and Use Committee (ACUC).

What does this mean if you receive NSF Funding? In accordance with our NIH Assurance, UC Berkeley has been required to report to OLAW any cases of serious or continuing noncompliance, serious deviations from the Guide, or any suspension of an activity/protocol ***only if the incident involved research supported by NIH funds***. With the new MOU in place, we are now required to report these incidents to OLAW for ***both*** NIH and NSF-funded research. OLAW is subject to requests under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), and this potentially increases the visibility of incidents of non-compliance.

If you have any questions about the new MOU between OLAC and NSF, please contact the Office for Animal Care and Use (OACU) at acuc@berkeley.edu or 642-8855.

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Simplification of the Vertebrate Animals Section (VAS) of NIH Grant Applications & Contract Proposals

Effective October 13, 2015, NIH has simplified the Vertebrate Animals Section (VAS) of grant applications, cooperative agreements, and contract proposals to remove redundancy with IACUC review while meeting the requirements of the PHS Policy. Changes include:

- Guidance on criteria to be addressed has been updated
- Description of veterinary care is no longer required
- Justification for the number of animals has been eliminated
- Description and justification of the method of euthanasia is required only if the method is not consistent with AVMA Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals

See NIH Guide Notice NOT-OD-16-006 to learn more about the updated VAS requirements, the implementation schedule, and what has changed. See also, the Vertebrate Animals Section webpage - a new resource where you can find more information on the requirements, a checklist, detailed instructions plus links to worksheets.

Do You Have Department of Defense (DoD) Funding?

If you receive The Department of Defense (DoD) funding, you should be aware that the DOD has specific requirements regarding protocol approval and notifications.

When the ACUC approves significant changes to an approved protocol that has been reviewed by the DoD, the DoD must review and approve the changes before they can be implemented. The DoD must also ensure that the ACUC conducts an appropriate continuing review at least annually.

The DoD requires that, “the IACUC must notify the [DoD]...when the IACUC approves significant changes to the protocol, and when the IACUC conducts its continuing [annual] review.” The Office for Animal Care and Use (OACU) is responsible for notifying the DoD of significant changes to approved protocols supported by the DoD.

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Updates to ACUC Policies & Guidelines

The ACUC has recently updated several Policies and Guidelines. To read or download copies of these and all ACUC Policies and Guidelines, visit the [ACUC web site](http://www.acuc.berkeley.edu/guidelines.html) (<http://www.acuc.berkeley.edu/guidelines.html>).

- The [Animal Care and Use Program](#) Policy was updated to redefine at what stage zebrafish and Xenopus species are considered animals that require oversight by the by ACUC:
 - Zebrafish: fish at > 3 days post fertilization
 - Xenopus: stage 44 (e.g. 3 days, 20 hour post fertilization at 23°C for *x. laevis*)
- The updated Policy on the [Use of Non-Pharmaceutical Grade Compounds](#) provides additional clarification on the definition of pharmaceutical-grade compounds and bulk chemical agents. Compounds distributed by “chemical vendors” (e.g., Fisher Scientific, Sigma-Aldrich) are **not** pharmaceutical-grade and require review and approval by the ACUC.
- Minor updates were made to the [Change in Animal Ownership Policy](#) to indicate that documentation is maintained by OLAC.
- The [Food, Beverage and Smoking in Animal Facilities](#) Policy was updated to reflect that UC Berkeley is now a tobacco-free campus.
- ACUC approved new [Guidelines for Humane Endpoints in Animal Studies](#). These guidelines provide parameters to consider when determining when to euthanize animals at the end of a study in order to prevent pain or distress.