



Berkeley Animal Care News

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Animal Care and Use Committee (ACUC)
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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 [Recent Compliance Inspections](#)
- 2 [Meet the New AV & OLAC Director](#)
- 3 [ACUC Pre-Approved Procedures](#)
- 4 [Custom Antibody Production 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.acuc.berkeley.edu/>
- 3 **Office for Laboratory Animal Care (OLAC)**
<http://www.olac.berkeley.edu/>

Recent Compliance Inspections

Our site visit by the Association for Assessment and Accreditation for Laboratory Animal Care (AAALAC) was conducted February 1-3, 2016. AAALAC visits the campus every three years for a comprehensive evaluation of our animal care and use program; this visit is critical to maintaining our accreditation as an outstanding animal program. At their exit briefing, the site visit team indicated that they would recommend full continued accreditation. We have a few minor issues to follow-up on, but overall, the outcome looks to be very favorable. Because the Council on Accreditation meets in May, we are expecting to hear the official results of the visit any day. Many thanks to the Office for Laboratory Animal Care (OLAC), Office for Animal Care and Use (OACU), research staff, and liaisons at Facilities, Environmental Health & Safety (EH&S), and the Occupational Health Clinic for all their hard work in preparing for a successful AAALAC site visit.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) conducted its annual, unannounced inspection of UC Berkeley's animal care and use program on March 23-24, 2016. We received two citations, one for a PI using a lower than approved dose of anesthesia for an imaging procedure and a second for a PI using expired anesthesia and euthanasia agents. These citations should serve to remind all of us of the importance of adhering to approved procedures and using appropriate reagents when working with live animals.

Kind regards,

Bill Sha
ACUC Chair

Eileen Lacey
ACUC Vice Chair

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 [Recent Compliance Inspections](#)
- 2 [Meet the New AV & OLAC Director](#)
- 3 [ACUC Pre-Approved Procedures](#)
- 4 [Custom Antibody Production for Research](#)

Meet the New AV & OLAC Director

Dr. Greg Lawson, Berkeley's new Attending Veterinarian (AV) and Director of OLAC, arrived on campus on 1 February, just in time to participate in the AAALAC visit.

Prior to coming to Berkeley, Dr. Lawson was the Acting Director of UCLA's Department of Laboratory Animal Medicine (DLAM). Greg received his PhD in Comparative Medicine in 2000 from UC Davis. He is a professionally licensed veterinarian, a diplomate of the American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine (ACLAM) and USDA accredited. He is a board-qualified veterinary pathologist and an AAALAC site visitor. Among the assets that Greg brings to OLAC is considerable expertise in designing pathogen-free facilities and clinical diagnostic laboratories.

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If you haven't had a chance to meet Greg, please give him a call or stop by his office in the Northwest Animal Facility. He looks forward to getting to know and to working with the UC Berkeley research community. You can reach Greg at glawson@berkeley.edu or 623-9567.

ACUC Pre-approved Procedures

The ACUC, in conjunction with the OLAC veterinary staff, has written several "pre-approved procedures" that describe common laboratory animal procedures. These templates have been reviewed and approved by the committee, to be used by PI's when writing protocols or amendments. These descriptions provide researchers with quick and easy guidance on how to describe and to perform common procedures. Although PI's may still use lab-specific procedures, adoption of the pre-approved procedures should expedite protocol review.

The committee welcomes input from researchers while drafting procedure descriptions. For example, an investigator in the School of Optometry is helping to write a pre-approved procedure for intra-ocular injections. If you would like to participate in this process, please contact the OACU at acuc@berkeley.edu or 642-8855.

Existing ACUC pre-approved procedures can be found on the OLAC web site (CalNet ID required): OLAC > PI Resources:
<http://www.olac.berkeley.edu/?q=veterinary-care/pre-approved-procedures>

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 [Recent Compliance Inspections](#)
- 2 [Meet the New AV & OLAC Director](#)
- 3 [ACUC Pre-Approved Procedures](#)
- 4 [Custom Antibody Production for Research](#)

Custom Antibody Production for Research

On May 19, 2016, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and Santa Cruz Biotechnology, Inc. (SCB) entered into a settlement agreement, otherwise known as a consent decision, to resolve alleged violations of the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) by the latter.

APHIS filed complaints against SCB in 2012, 2014 and 2015 for allegedly failing on multiple occasions to maintain the basic standards of the AWA. The consent decision resolves these allegations in all three complaints.

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The consent decision contains an order that SCB should cease and desist from violating the AWA. In addition, SCB must pay a \$3.5 million civil penalty, have their dealer's license revoked effective December 31, 2016, and agree to submit a letter canceling its research registration by May 31, 2016. Although the order permits SCB to use its dealer's license until December 31, 2016, SCB will not sell or use any blood, serum, antibodies or certain other products derived from live animals other than what was in its inventory on August 21, 2015, and must cease all sales when the revocation takes effect.

This information serves as an important reminder to investigators that, if you are submitting a proposal to a Public Health Service (PHS) regulated agency to use a custom antibody or are transferring a custom antibody via Material Transfer Agreement (MTA) using funds from a PHS-regulated agency, the following conditions apply:

- The distributing institution or company must have a PHS Approved Animal Welfare Assurance number or be included under UC Berkeley's Assurance.
- For species covered by the Animal Welfare Act, the producer of custom antibodies must be registered as a "Research Facility" with the USDA.

The ACUC also recommends that the institution or company be accredited by AAALAC. Investigators can check the NIH and AAALAC web sites to determine if an institution or company is both [assured by NIH](#) and [accredited by AAALAC](#).

For more information on this topic, please see the [ACUC web site](#), or contact the OACU at 642-3884 or acuc@berkeley.edu.