



# Berkeley Animal Care News

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Animal Care and Use Committee (ACUC)  
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<http://www.acuc.berkeley.edu/>
- 2 **Office for Animal Care and Use (OACU)**  
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- 3 **Office for Laboratory Animal Care (OLAC)**  
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## Off to a Good Start this Fall

We received good news at the end of summer from the Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory animal Care (AAALAC). Based on their site visit in February of this year, AAALAC will continue full accreditation for another three years. More details about their commendations and recommendations for program improvement can be found [on page 4 of the newsletter](#).

As we enter the final year of the eProtocol roll-out, additional progress has been made on incorporating the use of ACUC pre-approved procedures into the on-line form itself. In addition to the templates already approved by the ACUC, which are posted on the [OLAC web site](#), we will be updating the protocol form so that PIs can select a pre-approved procedure that will auto-fill the fields in the procedure description. This will simplify and speed up creating, amending and reviewing protocols as well as provide consistency across protocols for routine procedures.

In closing, congratulations to Michael Yartsev, Assistant Professor in the Department of Bioengineering and Helen Wills Neuroscience Institute. The New York Stem Cell Foundation (NYSCF) has awarded Michael a \$1.5 Million grant to study the neurobiological basis of language learning in the mammalian brain using a bat model system. To read more about Michael's work, see [the recent article](#) that appeared in the Berkeley News, or visit Michael's [NeuroBat Lab](#) web site.

Kind regards,

Bill Sha  
ACUC Chair

Eileen Lacey  
ACUC Vice Chair

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## Introducing the Occupational Health Surveillance System (OHSS)

Say goodbye to the Animal Exposure Questionnaire (AEQ)! Beginning December 5<sup>th</sup> the AEQ will be replaced with the Occupational Health Surveillance System (OHSS). OHSS provides an automated mechanism for conducting a risk assessment and corresponding medical evaluation for employees with exposure to animal biohazards and other workplace or laboratory exposures. Only new personnel will be required to complete the OHSS. The Office for Animal Care and Use is dedicated to assisting researchers into the new system. When new personnel need to be added, please contact the OACU at 510-642-8855 or [acuc@berkeley.edu](mailto:acuc@berkeley.edu) and a representative will meet with you to help you navigate the new system.

Additional resources, including a tutorial video, will be available December 5<sup>th</sup> on the [ACUC website](#).

## ACUC Pre-approved Procedures

The Vice Chancellor for Research Paul Alivisatos has authorized an important update to eProtocol to include the option to use “pre-filled” (or pre-approved) procedure description for commonly used procedures. This will not only save investigators time in completing the protocol form, but will also expedite the review of these procedures. Investigators will still have to option to describe “custom” procedures, and can make edits to the “pre-filled” procedures if needed. The ACUC will initially roll-out a total of 30 pre-filled procedures. Stay tuned for more information.

The ACUC, in conjunction with the OLAC veterinary staff, has also 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.

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

The ACUC will continue to post helpful templates on the OLAC website that can be used in other sections of the protocol, such as Animal Disposition.

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## New and Updated ACUC Guidelines

The ACUC has approved two new Guidelines and updated several others, which are summarized below and can be found on the [ACUC web site](#).

- [Dosing Techniques and Limits](#) (revised 10/12/2016)  
Updates were made to the dosing limits table and details were added regarding general procedures. These changes were made to ensure sterility of needles and Hamilton syringes used in rodent procedures.
- [Acclimation and Stabilization Guidelines](#) (new 9/14/2016)  
In accordance with the [Guide for Care and Use of Laboratory Animals](#) (the *Guide*), these new guidelines provide recommendations which will prevent transportation related stress from potentially confounding research. Animals are provided a period for physiologic, behavioral and nutritional acclimation before their use.
- [Cage Card Notification System Guidelines](#) (new 6/8/2016)  
The new guidelines establish the information required to be on all cage cards, as outlined in the *Guide*: PI Name, Protocol Number, Lab Contact Information, Animal Species or Strain, and Acquisition or Birth Date.
- [Investigator Care of Vertebrate Animals](#) (revised 10/12/2016)  
This guideline was updated to provide a template Daily Care Sheet and clarify both PI and OALC responsibilities when PIs provide their own animal care.
- [OLAC Care of Vertebrate Animals](#) (revised 11/9/2016)  
This guideline was updated clarify both OLAC and PI responsibilities when OLAC is providing animal care.
- [Rat Housing Guidelines](#) (revised 9/14/2016)  
The guideline has been updated to include a chart indicating the maximum number of rats allowed for all the different types of cages. The guideline emphasizes the social housing needs of rats and allows one male, one female and their unweaned litter in breeding cages (except in Lab Products single "One Cage").

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## AAALAC Continues Full Accreditation of UC Berkeley Animal Care and Use Program

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. We received the official results following our site visit by the Association for Assessment and Accreditation for Laboratory Animal Care (AAALAC), which was conducted February 1-3, 2016.

Based on their extensive review, AAALAC granted continued full accreditation, and commended UC Berkeley for providing and maintaining an excellent program. Especially noteworthy were the strong administrative support of the program, the comprehensive training program, the excellent program of veterinary care, the comprehensive environmental enrichment program, and the well-integrated programs of occupational health and safety.

The Council on Accreditation provided several non-mandatory recommendations for program improvements, including practices and information signage for hazardous agent use in animal housing rooms, and consistency of husbandry practices performed by research staff. Specific instances noted by the site visitors have been corrected and review of the suggestions are underway.

Many thanks to the Office for Laboratory Animal Care (OLAC), Office for Animal Care and Use (OACU), Animal Care and Use Committee (ACUC), 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.