



# Berkeley Animal Care News

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Issue 1

Animal Care and Use Committee (ACUC)  
[acuc@berkeley.edu](mailto:acuc@berkeley.edu)

(510) 642 - 8855  
[www.acuc.berkeley.edu](http://www.acuc.berkeley.edu)

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## SPOTLIGHT: ACUC and OACU Improvement Processes

In an effort to improve administrative efficiency and communication with PIs, the ACUC has implemented several procedural changes:

- As of May 1, 2017, the Office for Animal Care & Use (OACU) has discontinued MTA and SRA reviews. PIs are still expected to ensure that agents received for use in animal research are compliant with approved protocols.
- There will be more outreach by OACU to assist PIs with eProtocol submissions. You will also notice that reviewers' roles are now identified in reviewer comments.
- OACU analysts will administratively make minor edits and corrections to grammar and other small details.
- The DMR call to FCR has been shortened to just one day to enable faster turn-around time between submission and ACUC review.
- Preliminary site inspection findings are sent out prior to being reported to the ACUC to allow PIs time to correct and/or appeal the initial finding.
- As of July 1, all protocols with pain category B or C procedures *only* will be reviewed by the Designated Member Review (DMR) process rather than Full Committee Review (FCR).

We would also like to note that all animal use protocols are now in the eProtocol system. Thank you all for your hard work and patience as we transformed from the paper to the electronic system! We would also like to take this time to inform you that Jennifer Lee will retire at the end of June. Thank you, Jennifer, for your commitment and diligent assistance in getting everyone familiar with the eProtocol system!

Kind regards,

Bill Sha  
ACUC Chair

Eileen Lacey  
ACUC Vice Chair

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## Upcoming *de novo* Reviews

The first round of eProtocol *de novos* will be up for review in September 2017. Please note that all *de novos* must be submitted as new protocols. Pls will find it beneficial and efficient to clone the protocol then make any edits as needed. Instructions for cloning can be found in the eProtocol IACUC Quick Guide [http://www.acuc.berkeley.edu/eprotocol\\_guides/clone.pdf](http://www.acuc.berkeley.edu/eprotocol_guides/clone.pdf).

## Pre-filled Procedures

The Vice Chancellor for Research, Paul Alivisatos, has authorized funding for an important update to eProtocol to include pre-filled procedure descriptions for commonly used procedures. The first 10 of 30 procedures (listed below) are in testing and will soon to be in production. Using these will not only save investigators time in completing the protocol form, but will also expedite the review of these procedures as they have already been reviewed and approved by the ACUC. Investigators will still have the option to describe "custom" procedures and can make edits to the "pre-filled" procedures if desired.

- Rodent Blood and Tissue Collection Procedures
  1. Blood Collection in Anesthetized Mice
  2. Blood Collection in Anesthetized Rats
  3. Blood Collection in Conscious Mice
  4. Blood Collection in Conscious Rats
- Rodent Breeding Procedures
  5. Identification of Anesthetized Mice
  6. Identification of Anesthetized Rats
  7. Identification of Conscious Mice
  8. Identification of Conscious Rats
- Rodent Compound Administration
  9. Compound Administration
  10. Compound Administration under Anesthesia

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### Policy/Guidelines Update

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Since the last newsletter, the ACUC has updated the Occupational Health Policy and approved three new Guidelines, which are summarized below and can be found on the ACUC web site.

#### Policies:

[Animal Occupational Health and Safety Program](#) (12/14/2016)

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Updates were made to the policy to reflect the new Occupational Health Surveillance System (OHSS). PIs are asked to set up risk assessments for lab personnel, after which each lab member must complete the risk assessment and the health questionnaire, which goes directly to the Occupational Health Clinic. The OHSS is designed to improve upon efficiency of enrollment and accuracy of confidential occupational health information.

#### Guidelines:

[Blood Collection Techniques and Limits](#) (1/28/2016)

This document outlines the preferred methods for collecting blood from animals and blood collection volume and frequency limits. Blood collection for experimental purposes must comply with the investigator's ACUC-approved protocol, including approved collection techniques, volumes, and frequencies.

[Guidelines for Anesthesia and Analgesia in Laboratory Animals](#) (12/20/2016)

Federal regulations and guidelines mandate that animals undergoing potentially painful procedures be provided with adequate anesthesia and analgesia. In addition, for these procedures, a veterinarian must be consulted regarding the appropriate anesthetic and analgesic agent and dose for the species being used and the procedure being performed.

The standard of care is to prevent animal pain whenever possible and to treat animal pain whenever diagnosed.

Exceptions to these principles are permitted only if scientific justification is provided in the Animal Use Protocol (AUP) and approved by the Animal Care and Use Committee (ACUC).

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## Policy/Guidelines Update (continued)

### [Rat Housing Guidelines](#) (12/14/2016)

Rats are generally acquired directly from a vendor or from other research institutions as purpose-bred weanlings or adults. Sometimes it is necessary for investigators to breed rats in the Office of Laboratory Animal Care (OLAC) facilities or purchase pregnant rats for studies that use young pups. In all cases, rats must be housed according to conditions described in the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (Guide) unless otherwise noted.

## Reminders from the Committee

### Pre-Approved Procedures:

The ACUC, in conjunction with the OLAC veterinary staff, has written several pre-approved procedures that describe common laboratory procedures. These are in addition to the pre-filled procedures that we are adding into eProtocol. 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>.

### Personnel Procedural Certifications:

Please note that it is a regulatory requirement that all personnel are adequately trained to conduct procedures in animal research. PIs are responsible for ensuring that all lab personnel are certified by the OLAC trainer and/or veterinary staff on all procedures including surgery or euthanasia. Additional information can be found at:

[http://www.acuc.berkeley.edu/policies/pi\\_responsibilities.pdf](http://www.acuc.berkeley.edu/policies/pi_responsibilities.pdf) (page 5, Section D. Personnel Training).