



Berkeley Animal Care News

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

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 [Chair's Message](#)
- 2 [Tips for Collaborations and Animal Transfers](#)
- 3 [De Novo Reviews](#)
- 4 [Heating Pad Use](#)
- 5 [JIT Requests](#)
- 6 [Policy & Guideline Updates](#)
- 7 [Research Feature](#)

Chair's Message

Welcome back to a new academic year!

We are once again fully accredited by the American Association Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care (AAALAC). UCB has been continuously accredited since 1994. Congratulations to everyone for helping run a program that meets these standards! We received commendations for excellent institutional support for the program, an engaged and knowledgeable ACUC, extremely clean and well maintained OLAC facilities, a robust environmental enrichment program, outstanding and responsive facilities personnel, an excellent program of veterinary medical care, and the collegiality evident among PIs, staff, and OLAC personnel.

Remember that protocol submissions which require Full Committee Review (new protocols, de novos, and certain amendments) will be assigned to an upcoming ACUC meeting based on submission date. To view submission deadlines and corresponding meeting dates, visit the ACUC website (<https://acuc.berkeley.edu/calendar.html>).

RESOURCES

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- 2 **Office for Animal Care and Use (OACU)**
<https://acuc.berkeley.edu>
- 3 **Office for Laboratory Animal Care (OLAC)**
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Kind regards,

Eileen Lacey
ACUC Chair

Ellen Robey
ACUC Vice Chair

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- 6 [Policy & Guideline Updates](#)
- 7 [Research Feature](#)

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Transferring animals to/from another PI or collaborator? Here's what you need to consider:

1. Do I need to amend my AUP?

If the transfer is not already described in your AUP, you must submit an amendment:

- When sending animals, your AUP must include transfers to other investigators (UCB or outside PIs)
- When receiving animals, your AUP must include the correct species, animal numbers, and describe procedures performed on the animals prior to transfer

2. Do I need a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)?

If you are transferring animals as part of a shared project with a collaborator, you will need a MOU.

- Contact the ACUC at acuc@berkeley.edu for more information about completing a MOU

If you are simply purchasing or acquiring animals (e.g. acquiring specific strains from another institution, getting mice from another UCB PI's colony), you do not need a MOU.

3. Do I need a Material Transfer Agreement (MTA)?

If you are transferring regulated materials (including live vertebrates) away from UCB, a MTA must be in place. This ensures that subsequent use, care, and distribution is regulated.

- Contact the Industry Alliance Office (IAO) to complete a MTA
- More information about MTAs can be found at <https://ipira.berkeley.edu/material-transfer-agreements>

4. Do I need a Biological Use Authorization (BUA)?

If you are receiving transgenic animals you will need a BUA.

- Visit the EH&S website for more information <https://ehs.berkeley.edu/biosafety/how-do-i-know-if-i-need-bua>.

5. I plan to transport animals myself. Do I still need to complete an OLAC import/export form?

All animal transfers require submission of OLAC's Animal Import/Export form (which can be found on the [OLAC website](#) under the Forms tab). This is to ensure that incoming animals meet facility health standards.

6. Can I use a personal vehicle to transport animals?

Any personal vehicle used for transporting animals (on campus or externally) is subject to an ACUC inspection prior to the start of any work. If continued use for transport is proposed, the vehicle will be included in your lab's semi-annual inspections. Contact the ACUC at acuc@berkeley.edu to set up an initial vehicle inspection.

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- 5 [JIT Requests](#)
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- 7 [Research Feature](#)

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De Novo Reviews

All animal protocols must undergo de novo review every three years. This is federally mandated and there is no ability to delay de novo reviews. However you can shorten this three-year review period if you want a different, more convenient renewal date. The deadline for submitting protocols for de novo review is ~6 weeks prior to the expiration date. eProtocol sends three email reminders before the submission deadline, but it is ultimately the PI's responsibility to ensure that the protocol is submitted for de novo review on time.

Heating pad use during surgery

Ancillary heat (circulating warm water or warm air blanket, infrared warming pad, chemical warming pads, thermal gel packs) should be provided for most species undergoing procedures lasting longer than 5 minutes. Over the counter heating pads and heat lamps are not to be used as they can overheat the patient and lead to skin burns. Always have a towel or drape between the heat source and the animal. See [Guidelines for Surgical Procedures](#) for more information.

Approval letters for JIT requests

When funding agencies require proof of ACUC approval for Just-In-Time (JIT) requests, an up-to-date ACUC approval letter can be used to satisfy this requirement once the funding has been added to the AUP. Contact OACU at acuc@berkeley.edu if you need assistance.

It is the responsibility of the Principal Investigator to ensure that one or more AUPs covers all work described in the grant proposal, and that the proposed funding has been added to the AUP. If any changes must be made to the protocol to meet these requirements, they must be submitted to the ACUC for review. Only the PI of a grant or subcontract can add his or her own SPO Funding information in the Funding Sources section of the protocol. For more information on how to add a funding source, review our eP guide: (https://acuc.berkeley.edu/eprotocol_guides/funding.pdf)

Policy & Guideline Updates

The ACUC has recently updated several Policies and Guidelines, which are linked below. All ACUC Policies and Guidelines are available to on the ACUC website (<https://acuc.berkeley.edu/guidelines.html>).

- [Animal Care and Use Program Policy](#) - revised 3/4/2019
- [Animal Occupational Health and Safety Program Policy](#) - revised 2/14/2019
- [Principal Investigator Responsibilities Policy](#) - revised 4/10/19
- [Policy on Protocol Review](#) - revised 2/21/2019
- [Training and Education Policy](#) - revised 5/13/2019

Policy & Guideline Updates (continued)

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- [Change in Animal Ownership for Research Purposes Policy](#) - revised 9/25/2019
- [Animal Adoption Policy](#) - NEW
- [Guidelines for Surgical Procedures](#) - revised 9/25/2019
- [Guidance on Exceptions Regarding Housing or Husbandry of Laboratory Animals](#) - revised 7/1/2019
- [Overcrowded Mouse Cage Guidelines](#) - revised 7/1/2019

Research Feature

Research in the Kramer lab is focused on the molecular engineering of light-regulated ion channels and receptors, the key proteins that underlie signaling within and between cells in the nervous system. The lab has created a series of light-sensitive molecules, called photoswitches, that combine with channels and receptors to allow optical remote control with high spatial and temporal precision. Photoswitches are exciting for two reasons: 1) they are leading to a better understanding of the basic mechanisms of neural function, and 2) they may be useful as drugs for allowing the input of information into the nervous system, downstream of sites of injury or neurodegeneration.

One of the most exciting potential applications of photoswitches is for restoring vision in progressive degenerative blindness. The Kramer lab is studying genetically blind mice that lose their retinal rods and cones, a disorder equivalent to human Retinitis Pigmentosa. Photoswitches can restore light-sensitivity onto neurons in the blind retina. This signal is transmitted through neural circuits in the brain to restore light-evoked behavior in freely-moving mice. In addition to their other favorable properties, photoswitches have a remarkable unexpected feature: they photosensitize blind areas of the retina where the rods and cones have died, but they have no side-effects on healthy areas of the retina that still possess intact rods and cones. New studies from the lab are revealing the molecular events that underlie the degeneration-specific action of photoswitches. Taken together, these animal studies provide hope for new drug treatments for improving or restoring sight to humans with vision-impairing disorders.

Richard Kramer is a recipient of numerous grants from the National Institutes of Health and the Gund-Harrington Award from the Foundation Fighting Blindness.

Recent Publications:

Telias, M, Denlinger, B, Helft, Z, Beckwith-Cohen, B, Thornton, C, and Kramer, RH (2019). Retinoic acid is the trigger for neural hyperactivity in retinal degeneration and blocking its receptor unmasks light responses and augments vision. *Neuron* 8: 102:574-586

Tochitsky, I, Kienzler, MA, Isacoff, E, and Kramer RH (2018). Restoring Vision to the Blind with Chemical Photoswitches. *Chemistry Reviews* 118:10748-10773

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