



Berkeley Animal Care News

March 2020
Volume 9
Issue 1

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

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<https://acuc.berkeley.edu>

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RESOURCES

- 1 **Animal Care and Use Committee (ACUC)**
<https://acuc.berkeley.edu>
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Chair's Message

The multiple PG&E outages last fall highlighted the need for up-to-date disaster plans for both announced and unexpected events. All PIs should have a written plan to address potential complications caused by power outages and similar disruptions. Plans should include, as applicable:

- Procedures for postponing ongoing experiments
- Backup methods of storing frozen or irreplaceable samples, genetic lines, and materials
- Plans to address PI care if access to the building is limited
- Ensuring safety of lab members

On a different note, the ACUC is always looking for new members. All faculty who have an animal use protocol should consider paying it forward by serving on the ACUC. The workload is reasonable and participants learn not only how to better prepare their own protocols but also about the incredible breadth of cutting edge research being conducted by Berkeley scientists. See the figure on the last page of this newsletter for a representation of how much each department contributes to the ACUC's workload. If interested in serving, please contact Dr. Becky Armstrong, Director of OACU, at rda@berkeley.edu.

Regards,

Eileen Lacey
ACUC Chair

Ellen Robey
ACUC Vice Chair

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A few important reminders:

Prior to use, rooms in which animal procedures will take place must be added to your AUP and inspected and approved by the ACUC; these steps must be completed before work can begin. Approved uses are procedure-specific. For example, a room previously approved for compound administration will need to undergo another inspection to be cleared for surgical procedures or behavioral work. If you are unsure if inspection is required, please contact acuc@berkeley.edu.

It is important that labs reserve shared procedure rooms prior to utilizing those spaces. If you have not reserved a shared space, please refrain from using it while others are working. This helps prevent overcrowding and distractions that may result in work-related injuries, such as needle-sticks. Shared spaces can be reserved by accessing the OLAC Shared Room Calendars under the [PI Resources](#) tab on the OLAC website.

The ACUC requires that all vehicles used to transport animals be inspected prior to use. Vehicle transport must be approved on a case by case basis and re-inspection must occur annually for continued use. To schedule a vehicle inspection, contact acuc@berkeley.edu.

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Altering submissions mid-review

Once an amendment or continuing review submission has been assigned to reviewers, no additional significant changes may be made until after the current submission has been approved. The only exceptions are administrative changes (e.g. new personnel or funding) and minor changes made in direct response to reviewer comments. If additional significant changes are proposed mid-review, the initial assignment of the protocol to DMR or FCR review is nullified and the submission may need to undergo triage again. This will result in delays to the review process. Please see the [Policy on Protocol Review](#) for more details about the review process.

New AVMA Euthanasia Guidelines

The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) has released the latest version of its Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals. The 2020 guidelines feature the latest research, information and member input to provide veterinarians with science-based and logistically sound guidance for relieving the suffering and pain of animals to be euthanized. The updated version of the guidelines can be viewed at https://www.avma.org/sites/default/files/2020-01/2020_Euthanasia_Final_1-15-20.pdf

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Special Services Requests

Special services are defined as any activity that is not part of OLAC's standard husbandry or veterinary care. Any requested special service must be part of your approved AUP before OLAC can complete your request.

When a Special Services Request (SSR) is made to OLAC, OACU staff are asked to review and verify it as congruent with an approved protocol. In cases where SSR information is not present in an approved protocol, OACU staff will notify OLAC and work with the requestor to submit an amendment for review by the ACUC. Once the SSR is verified, OLAC can complete your request.

For additional information on Special Service Requests including form submission, please visit <https://www.olac.berkeley.edu/special-services-request-0>.

Travel warnings for exporting research materials

Federal law enforcement agencies have increased their scrutiny on transportation of research materials. These efforts are part of a nation-wide enforcement effort to control the transport of biological materials that may present a threat to national security and to reduce the theft of intellectual property developed in the US. Transporting certain materials may require import/export permits or other documentation from federal agencies, including US Customs and Border Protection (CBP), the FDA, USDA, US Fish and Wildlife, and the CDC. We urge PIs to obtain all necessary documents when travelling out of the US, or entering the US with various research materials.

Policy & Guideline Updates

All ACUC Policies and Guidelines are available to on the ACUC website (<https://acuc.berkeley.edu/guidelines.html>).

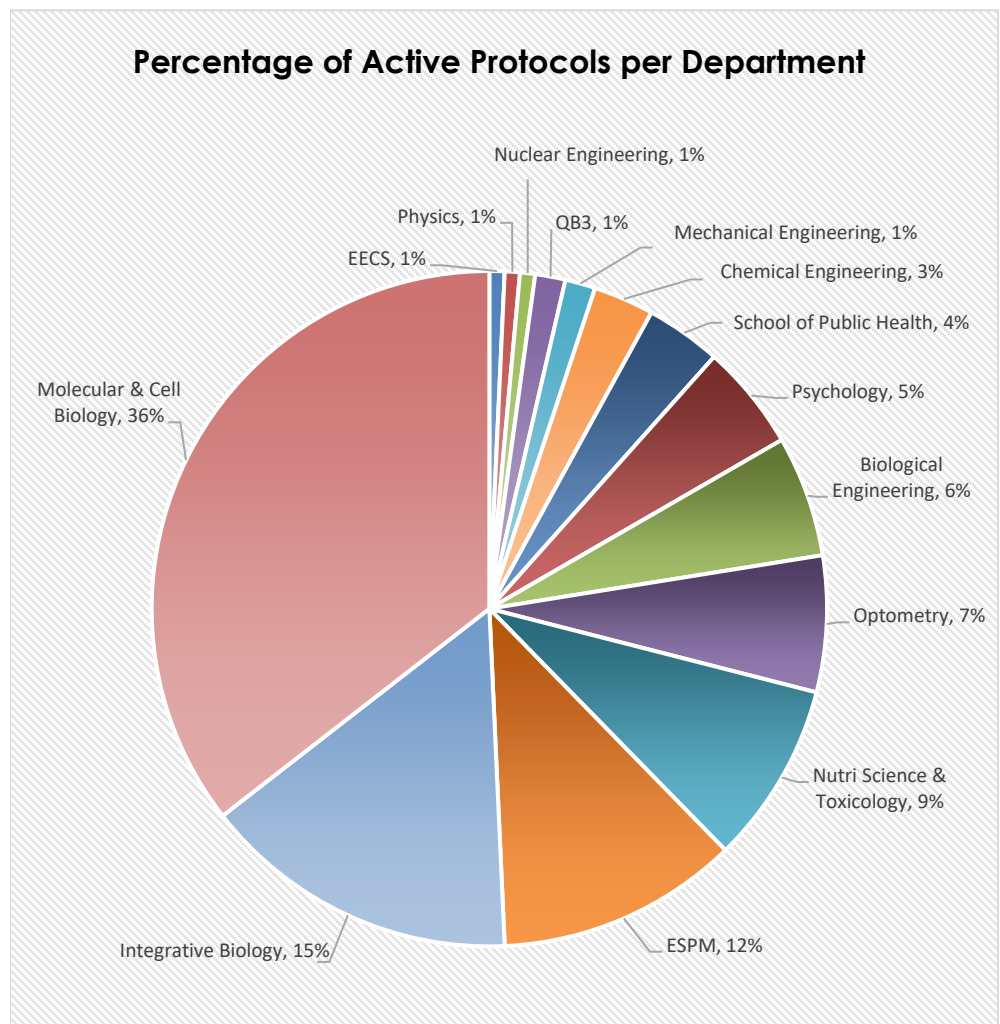
- [Policy on Protocol Review](#) - revised 10/8/2019
- [Testing Biologicals Used in Laboratory Rodents](#) - revised 2/12/2020

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Consider joining the ACUC

Animal research on campus is highly diverse and thus the ACUC needs to reflect diverse expertise - both scientific and taxonomic. Consider joining the committee to help ensure that submissions from your department are reviewed by fellow subject matter experts. The figure below represents the percentage of current active protocols from each department reviewed by the ACUC.



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