



Berkeley Animal Care News

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

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Chair's Message

We are pleased to announce that after a national search for the new Assistant Vice Chancellor for Research Administration and Compliance (RAC), Kairi Williams has been appointed to this position. Kairi joined RAC on February 1st. He comes to us with a strong background in audit and compliance, a broad knowledge of research support, and a clear focus on helping us maintain and enhance our service commitment to the faculty.

On a different note, the ACUC is always looking for new community members. The workload is reasonable, and participants learn about the incredible breadth of cutting-edge research being conducted by Berkeley scientists. In order to participate, community member candidates must not be (1) a laboratory animal user or former user, (2) affiliated with UC Berkeley, or (3) an immediate family member of an individual affiliated with UC Berkeley. And of course, they should support the use of animals in research.

RESOURCES

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If you know someone who is interested in serving, please have them contact the Office for Animal Care and Use at acuc@berkeley.edu.

Regards,

Eileen Lacey
ACUC Chair

Ellen Robey
ACUC Vice Chair

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OHSS Risk Assessments

Frustrated by how long it takes to add new personnel to a protocol? Make sure new personnel have completed CITI training and OHSS prior to submitting a new personnel amendment.

Inadequate, inaccurate, or misplaced information is likely to require modifications to the risk assessment, which will significantly delay approval. PIs, supervisors, and lab personnel are encouraged to review the following tutorial in order to understand the full OHSS process and ensure that they know how to complete the form:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oc_rBYtiq4Q

Supervisors creating health assessments for personnel should pay particular attention to the following sections of the risk assessment:

- [Exposure Description](#) - elaborate exposure risks associated with the indicated level of animal contact
- [Personal Protective Equipment \(PPE\)](#) - indicate the PPE required based on the proposed research, NOT ambient air quality or COVID-19
- [Biological Agents](#) - if using, be sure to also indicate any associated hazards
 - Example: if working with HEK cells, make sure to also check the box saying personnel will be working with human cell lines

Free Training Offered by AWIC

The Animal Welfare Information Center (AWIC) offers free training to individuals working with animals. The following training categories are offered:

- [AWIC Workshops](#) describing Animal Welfare Act requirements
- [Animal Care and Use](#) courses and learning materials
- [Tutorials and Audiovisuals](#) for common laboratory procedures

Customizable (virtual) training and workshops are also available upon request. [Contact AWIC for details.](#)

NOTE: AWIC is offering a *free Animal Use Alternatives Search Workshop on April 13, 2021*. Register to participate at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/awic-animal-use-alternatives-search-workshop-april-2021-tickets-144274215061>

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Animal Facility Space

Due to recent hires of faculty who use animals and expansion by existing faculty users, UC Berkeley is largely out of space in the animal facilities at this time. Only after the new hires are settled in will OLAC and CARSA be able to determine if there is residual available space. As a result, requests for expansion in space or increased animal use in the coming months are unlikely to be fruitful.

In addition to lack of space, the OLAC budget for racks and related equipment is exhausted. Addition of new animals, where space is available, may require that units or Departments purchase the needed racks, though such purchases must be coordinated by OLAC to ensure compatibility with existing systems and spaces.

Cage Drop Off Reminders

OLAC has begun posting a log sheet at each dirty cage drop off station. Anyone leaving cages to be cleaned is expected to fill out all the information on the log sheet, including PI name, name of the individual leaving cages, and the number of cages deposited at the drop off station.

Under *no circumstances* should dead or alive animals be left in dirty cages that are deposited at drop off stations. It is the responsibility of each lab to ensure that animals are euthanized and disposed of properly. Euthanasia must be conducted using approved procedures, which always include a secondary method of euthanasia that assures death. Disposal of dead animals must follow approved procedures. This is mandated by EH&S and does not allow disposal of dead animals with used bedding. Dead animals must be placed in plastic bags and then placed in approved biohazard waste receptacles.

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Upcoming Construction

Construction will be occurring in Weill Hall from March 7th - May 1st. If at any point you feel that your animals are or have been negatively impacted by the potential vibrations and noise of construction activities, please contact acuc@berkeley.edu.

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What Counts as a Collaboration?

A collaboration is defined as working jointly with others, in an intellectual endeavor using animals in research, testing, or teaching where the interaction is supporting the aims and goals of the collaborating PIs such that each is benefiting. These benefits may include: joint experiments and data analysis, co-authored publications, future joint grant submissions, etc. Collaborations may also involve animal transfers and changes in animal ownership.

If engaging in a collaboration, either with another UCB PI or a PI from an outside institution, you must describe the collaboration in the *Are You Using?* section of your AUP. Summarize the nature of the collaborative work and the responsibilities of each party.

- If, the collaboration involves transferring animals
 - When **receiving** animals from another PI, indicate the source in the Species section. Select either “UCB Collaborator” (for fellow UCB PIs) or “Other” (for PIs from outside institutions).
 - When **sending** animals to another PI, describe that in the Animal Disposition section under “Change of Ownership”.
 - If animals will undergo procedures before or after transfer, describe that in the Procedure Relationships section so that the full experience of study animals is captured.
- Is a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) needed?
 - If only transferring animals to/from a PI from an outside institution, in which the providing PI is serving only as a source of new animals, a MOU is not needed.
 - If a collaboration is occurring with a PI from an outside institution, aside from the previous point described, then a MOU is needed to document which institution, PI and IACUC have responsibility for the animals’ welfare over the course of the collaboration.
 - Collaborations between UCB PIs do not require an MOU.
 - Contact acuc@berkeley.edu for assistance initiating a MOU.
- Is an Interinstitutional Assurance (IIA) needed?
 - If an outside UCB entity is receiving PHS funds to perform animal work and UCB is serving as the performance site for the animal work, then an IIA is needed.
 - See OLAW’s information about this at: <https://olaw.nih.gov/resources/documents/interinstitutional-assurance.htm>

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