Chair’s Message

One good thing that’s come out of this pandemic is that AAALAC International’s next site visit to UC Berkeley’s animal care and use program has been delayed by a year! AAALAC is the Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care and is an essential accreditation for our animal research. It certifies that UC Berkeley meets the standards required by law, and is also going the extra steps to achieve excellence in animal care and use. Their visit is scheduled to occur between January and March of 2023.

We would like to remind PIs that if their animals experience a negative event or consequence that’s unanticipated during their animal work that they must contact the OLAC veterinarians to address immediate animal welfare concerns. Then the event must be reported by the PI to the ACUC by emailing acuc@berkeley.edu a brief summary of what happened. This is not intended as a punitive measure but rather to make sure that the UCB research and teaching community is doing its best to maintain animal welfare on campus.

Regards,
Karsten Gronert, ACUC Chair

UPDATED Pre-filled Procedures

The ACUC recently updated all pre-filled procedures in eProtocol. Updated versions include “2021 UPDATE” in the procedure title. Beginning December 1st, all submissions adding or changing pre-filled procedures must use the updated versions. PIs can modify the ACUC approved 2021 Updated procedures if scientifically needed and justified.
Labs Training Other Labs for Specialized Procedures

- Under what circumstances is one lab allowed to train another lab?
  - When training or certification of a specific procedure is not available or offered by OLAC. Please contact the OLAC Trainer (olactraining@berkeley.edu) or submit a training request to determine if they offer guidance for the specific procedure. OLAC may offer a recommendation of a lab that is currently skilled in a specific procedure.
- What must happen before training can occur?
  - Procedure(s) must be approved on the trainee PI’s AUP
  - All trainee personnel must be listed on the AUP
  - If a non-OLAC trainer will be handling live animals during the demonstration, they must also be listed on the trainee PI’s AUP
- Whose animals should be used during training?
  - Animals must be owned by the trainee lab
- Documentation of all training should be maintained by the PI as well as the individual

Pre-Approved Procedures

The ACUC has developed a series of ACUC Pre-Approved Procedures that can be found on the OLAC website under the PI Resources tab, or by clicking here. These procedures can be copied and pasted into protocols as needed. They are made available to help encourage consistency for common procedures and to speed up the submission review process. If researchers deviate from what is written in the pre-approved procedures, the variation and rationale must be fully explained in the protocol.

Isoflurane Drop Jar Method for Rodents

The isoflurane drop jar/open-drop method has been added to the drop-down menu of anesthetic options in eProtocol. Use of the open-drop method for inhalant anesthesia must be described in the AUP and used only as justified in the Guidelines for Anesthesia and Analgesia in Laboratory Animals.

Rodent Enrichment

OLAC has a list of suggested enrichment items that PIs can purchase to improve breeding, address food grinders, and more. The list of items and instructions on how to order through the OLAC website can be found here:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1BxLuHx2N-a3l56o3Fd4LnMWs1TYsiSxSmhEnBmGgKY/edit#heading=h.bfwtg7hs322g
DeNovo Review Submissions

Please make sure to submit a Continuing Review form for your deNovo review. Visit the following Quick Guide for guidance: https://acuc.berkeley.edu/eprotocol_guides/denovo.pdf. Please contact acuc@berkeley.edu for additional assistance if needed.

Cloned protocols submitted instead of Continuing Reviews will not be accepted. Reasons include:

1) Cloning a protocol gives it a new AUP number. Submitting a Continuing Review allows the AUP to keep the same number, meaning there is no need to print new cage cards or notify funding agencies of the change.

2) The history of amendments is clearly recorded in eProtocol, which may come in handy if old information or procedures need to be revisited in the future.

Webinar: Best Practices Searching for Animal Alternatives and Finding Model Organisms

December 9, 2021 at 10am PST. Registration info at: https://olaw.nih.gov/education/educational-resources/webinar-2021-12-09.htm

Policy & Guideline Updates

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

- Cage Card Notification System - revised 3/15/2021
- Multiple Partial Ovariectomies in Xenopus (MPOX) - revised 3/23/2021
- Assigning Pain & Distress Categories to ACUC Protocols - revised 4/8/2021
- Policy on Protocol Review - revised 5/19/2021, effective 7/1/2021
- Surgical Procedures - revised 7/30/2021
- Guidelines for Anesthesia and Analgesia - revised 8/2021