



Berkeley Animal Care News

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

(510) 642-8855
<https://acuc.berkeley.edu>

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<https://acuc.berkeley.edu>
- Office for Animal Care and Use (OACU)
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- Office for Laboratory Animal Care (OLAC)
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Chair's Message

The ACUC is always looking for new members. Animal research on campus is highly diverse and thus the committee needs to reflect diverse expertise - both scientific and taxonomic. Joining the ACUC is an interesting and important way to provide service to the Berkeley campus. 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. All faculty who have an animal use protocol should consider paying it forward by serving on the ACUC. Please contact the Office for Animal Care and Use at acuc@berkeley.edu if you are interested.

Regards,

Karsten Gronert
ACUC Chair

NIH's New Animals in Research Page

The new [Animals In Research](#) page is a collaborative, cross-NIH effort that emphasizes NIH's commitment to supporting ethically conducted, high quality research that is crucial for achieving rigorous and scientifically valid results. It discusses:

- Why animals are used in research
- How animals have helped improve public health
- Why properly designed experiments are critical to animal research and advancing public health
- How NIH ensures the care of research animals
- When alternatives to animals are used in research

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Occupational Health Policy Update

The Animal Occupational Health and Safety Program Policy was updated on 8/1/2022. The revised policy now specifies the minimum participation and time period of approval for participants. Renewal time frames for individuals after the initial baseline OHSS evaluation are described below. For additional details, please refer to the full [Policy](#).

- 1. Risk Category A - 6-month approval period**
 - a) Mandatory semi-annual renewal
 - i. Mycobacterium tuberculosis (TB) work
- 2. Risk Category B - Annual approval period**
 - a) Mandatory Annual Renewal
 - i. Non-human primates
 - ii. SARS-CoV-2 work
 - b) Strongly recommended Annual Renewal
 - i. Rodents (mice, rats, tuco-tucos, guinea pigs, etc.)
 - ii. Wild animals/field work
- 3. Risk Category C - 2-year approval period**
 - a) Mandatory
 - i. Bats
 - ii. Rabies Virus or Pseudo-type Rabies
 - iii. Field work involving exposure to animals that may carry Rabies
- 4. Risk Category D - 3-year approval period**
 - a) All personnel - except those covered by Risk Category E - must be current at the time of the AUP's deNovo/Continuing Review prior to the AUP being reapproved by ACUC. PI/Supervisors, whose staff member's OHSS risk assessments do not correspond with the AUP de Novo schedule, are responsible for ensuring that they review the assessment to meet the 3-year renewal requirement appropriately for all lab members.
 - b) Birds
- 5. Risk Category E - 3-year approval (continued participation is optional after initial completion)**
 - a) Fish
 - b) Amphibians
 - c) Reptiles

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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 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 made 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.

Data Security

Under the latest [UC Berkeley Data Classification Standard](#), information about AUPs and data related to animal researchers and members of the ACUC fall under Protection Level 3. Acceptable ways to store and send this type of data include:

- G Suite for Education
- Box
- bCourses Project Sites

In addition, to maintain appropriate security, please use your berkeley.edu email address when sending and receiving emails about your animal research. If any of the aforementioned data is forwarded to your non-Berkeley account, security risks become your responsibility. All members of your lab must follow this practice for security measures to be effective.

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Rodent Anesthetics & Analgesics

Not sure which anesthetic or analgesic agents are best for your rodent procedures? Formularies for these drugs are available for reference on the OLAC Website. The following documents provide recommended drugs, doses, and frequencies of administration for various procedure:

- [Mouse Anesthesia & Analgesia Formulary](#)
- [Rat Anesthesia & Analgesia Formulary](#)

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Biosafety Updates

Please welcome Jim Baugh to UC Berkeley as our new Campus Biosafety Officer. Jim comes to us from UC Davis where he served as Associate Biosafety Officer for seven years. He has a PhD in Microbiology from the University of Chicago, research experience at Scripps Research Institute in La Jolla, and started his biosafety career at UCLA EH&S. Annika Smith also recently joined the growing biosafety team at EH&S as a new Assistant Biosafety Officer. She brings an animal health sciences degree from Clemson University and a recently completed Master of Public Health degree from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Jim and Annika are out and about getting familiar with campus labs and our animal research facilities. To contact them, please email bsu@berkeley.edu.

Hazardous Chemicals

All use of hazardous chemicals must be covered by a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) per Cal/OSHA regulation. This includes the use of carcinogens, mutagens, reproductive hazards, acutely toxic materials, antineoplastic agents and/or other hazardous drugs used in laboratory animals. SOPs must be completed before work with the material may begin. It is the lab's responsibility to review chemicals in their AUP, be familiar with their hazards, and communicate hazards to OLAC staff via signage and cage cards. For guidance on writing SOPs, please refer to the [Chemical Safety](#) and [EH&S SOP](#) webpages, or contact the EH&S Chemical Hygiene Officer, Kelsey Mesa, via ucbcho@berkeley.edu for assistance.

EH&S conducts annual checks of nearly 1300 fume hoods across campus used to protect researchers from breathing hazardous airborne chemicals. Before using a fume hood, always check the flow monitor to ensure the hood has sufficient inward airflow velocity (100 fpm – 150 fpm). Learn more about proper use of fume hoods and how to read monitors on the [Fume Hood](#) webpage. Of note, Type A recirculating biological safety cabinets are only equipped with HEPA filters that capture particles, not fumes or vapors, so work with volatile chemicals is prohibited in these cabinets. Periodically, EH&S conducts exposure assessments in animal research facilities to verify exhaust systems are functioning as designed to control exposure to airborne hazards such as isoflurane, formaldehyde, and ethylene oxide. To report an exposure concern or request an assessment from EH&S, please call (510) 642-3073 or email ehs@berkeley.edu.

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Research Feature

Be Collaborative, Be Respectful, Be Legal, and Be Safe

Many scientists working with field-collected animals run large collaborative research programs that span multiple regions or countries. Such field programs, like most aspects of science, are shaped by imbalances in power and resources that are compounded by global inequities arising from colonialism, racism, and discrimination. Scientists from UC Berkeley brought together a diverse group of field biologists to create guidelines that will support a more equitable future in field biology and the many research programs based on field-collected data. They also provide a set of actions, considerations, and tools (e.g., an extended field safety plan and a guide to collection permits for vertebrates in the USA) to help research teams follow the suggested guidelines.

Open access to the full publication by V. Ramírez-Castañeda et al. can be viewed here:

<https://www.pnas.org/doi/full/10.1073/pnas.2122667119>

Be collaborative



Be respectful



Be legal



Be safe



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