



Berkeley Animal Care News

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Animal Care and Use Committee (ACUC)
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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

As you may already know, a nation-wide search has begun to select a new Attending Veterinarian (AV) and Director of the Office for Laboratory Animal Care (OLAC), following Dr. Greg Lawson's retirement in June 2024. We want to express our gratitude to Dr. Lawson, who not only served as an exemplary AV for 8 years but who is also continuing to serve as AV and OLAC Director on a part time basis until a new AV is hired.

In addition, Dr. Becky Armstrong, Director of OACU for the past 14 1/2 years will be retiring at the end of this year. Along with several different Attending Veterinarians, Becky has provided leadership for UCB's animal program and continuing accreditation through four cycles of AAALAC reviews! The search for Becky's replacement will take place later in 2025, however, Kairi Williams, AVC-RAC, has appointed Adrienne Tanner, as Interim Director to cover Becky's areas of human, animal and stem cell research starting in January. Adrienne, along with OACU Assistant Director, Richelle Scales, will continue the exemplary support and service that ACUC and PIs have come to expect from the OACU Team!

On a different note, after a slight delay, UC Berkeley was notified that we have maintained full AAALAC accreditation! We appreciate everyone who helped the AAALAC site visit back in March 2023 go as smoothly as possible, and dedicated time and effort into ensuring that we met all requirements.

Regards,
Karsten Gronert, ACUC Chair

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Animal Facility Access Requirements

PIs are responsible for making sure their lab personnel complete appropriate training and orientation before entering the animal facility and performing research procedures.

Personnel **must** be approved on the PI's AUP before they begin hands-on animal work. To be approved on an AUP, personnel must complete:

- "Working with the IACUC (All animal users)" [CITI training course](#)
- [Occupational health risk assessment](#)

Personnel must complete facility orientation before beginning animal research in the vivarium. The facility orientation request form is available on the OLAC website here. As part of orientation, individuals must:

- Complete the [EHS205 online course](#)
- Be approved on the PI's AUP

"Piggy backing" or "tailgating" to enter a building is not allowed. This includes letting others borrow card keys for access or bringing in lab members who have not completed the orientation process. These practices are considered noncompliant and put the security of all animal-using PIs and personnel at risk.

Planning to bring a visitor into the animal facility? Please see the ACUC Policy on [Admission of Visitors to Animal Facilities](#) for appropriate procedures.

Have any personnel who have left your lab? Make sure to:

- Remove them from the AUP
- Contact OLAC so that they can remove their key card access to your animal rooms

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Recommended Pinning/Dissection Pads

If you are looking for pinning or dissection pads that are possible to sanitize (which is an ACUC requirement for animal work), polyethylene pan pads [like this one](#) are a great alternative to Styrofoam or other single-use options.

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JIT Funding – Proof of ACUC Approval

When a funding source requests Just-In-Time (JIT) documentation of ACUC approval, the best way to provide this is with an approval letter generated by eProtocol. You can download your AUP's most recent approval letter by following the instructions [here](#).

In order for the approval letter to list the applicable proposal or award, the funding must be added to the AUP under the 'Funding Sources' tab. Instructions for adding funding to an AUP can be found [here](#). Please note that due to software restrictions, only the PI and/or Co-PI of the grant will be able to successfully add the funding to the protocol. It is not possible to delegate this task. When updated funding is the only change included in an amendment and the protocol already covers all procedures described on the funding proposal, the turn-around time to approval is quick (usually within one business day).

If you have difficulty adding funding to the AUP or have special requirements from the sponsor (e.g., the name of a collaborator or other personnel must be listed on the approval letter), please contact acuc@berkeley.edu for assistance.

Occupational Health Update

If you are welcoming visitors into your lab who are not listed on your AUP, please review the [Occupational Health and Safety Program Policy](#) to make sure the appropriate forms and requirements have been completed. Forms are available in Appendix 2 of the policy. PIs may accompany casual short term or transient adult visitors to their own animal facility and lab space. In areas with unique entry requirements, such as nonhuman primate housing areas, biosafety facilities, or areas with other hazards (radiation producing machines, lasers, etc.), PIs must obtain permission from the AV and potentially other personnel (EH&S, other PIs, etc.) to bring visitors to the area. If you have questions about whether this applies to a planned visitor to your lab, please contact OACU at acuc@berkeley.edu.

Also note, students entering the animal facilities as part of a UCB class, should review the [ACUC Student Health Handout](#). Instructors are responsible for providing the handout to their students.

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Vendor Approval Process

Thinking about ordering animals from a new vendor? Please contact OLAC at least one month prior to the intended order date and provide contact information for the vendor. OLAC will confirm how the vendor runs their facility, which types of cages/tanks they use, how they treat their water, and how they test their animals. Once approved, a vendor will remain on OLAC's approved list.

Defining Humane Endpoints

Animals used in biomedical research may experience pain or distress as part of the experimental protocol. By implementing humane endpoints, pain or distress can be prevented or alleviated while still meeting scientific aims and objectives.

An article published in Lab Animal, [available here for free](#), brings experts from multiple institutions as well as representatives from the USDA and OLAW to discuss a scenario about the importance of defining humane endpoints in research protocols. This is a useful resource for evaluating your own lab's defined endpoints in the AUP.

Policy & Guideline Updates

- [Euthanasia Guidelines](#) - revised 4/9/2024
- [Animal Adoption Policy](#) - revised 4/24/2024
- [Admission of Visitors to Animal Facilities](#) - revised 5/3/2024
- [Food and/or Beverage in Animal Facilities Policy](#) - revised 5/8/2024
- [Record Retention Policy](#) - revised 5/8/2024
- [Site Inspection Policy](#) - revised 5/10/2024
- [Surgical Procedures Guidelines](#) - revised 5/14/2024
- [Animal Occupational Health and Safety Program](#) - revised 9/11/2024
- [Animal Care and Use Program](#) - revised 9/11/2024
- [Principal Investigator Responsibilities](#) - revised 9/11/2024

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