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Committee names are changing: HRC becomes IRB; ACUC becomes IACUC

In an effort to standardize the names of our compliance review committees, we are pleased to announce that the Human Research Committee (HRC) will now be called the Institutional Review Board (IRB), and the Animal Care and Use Committee (ACUC) will now be called the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC). For those of you coming to CSU from other institutions, this nomenclature may be reassuring; for those of us who are familiar with the old names, we hope this name change will not be the cause of any inconvenience. As CSU researchers expand their programs and extend their reach to national and international partners, we hope to facilitate collaboration by using committee names easily recognizable by all. Thanks for your patience as we implement these changes on our website and forms!

Congratulations to ABSA President-Elect Dr. Robert Ellis!

Dr. Robert Ellis, University Director of Biosafety, has just been elected President-Elect by the members of the American Biological Safety Association (ABSA). ABSA is the premier association for Biosafety Professionals in the United States with over 1500 members in 32 countries. Dr. Ellis has been a member of ABSA since 1997 and was elected to the ABSA Council in 2004. He will be installed in October at the annual meeting in Nashville, and will be President-Elect from 2007-2008. Dr. Ellis will be President, beginning October 2008-2009, and Past-President October 2009-10. Being ever so modest Dr. Ellis commented, “The people I work with and the support of the Colorado State University Biosafety Program made it possible for this to occur.”

Please join with us in congratulating Bob on this great achievement!!!
**Essay of the Month: “Species Bias in Protocol Review: Are All Animals Created Equally?”**

During its deliberations, the IACUC must determine whether the benefit of the proposed research balances or outweighs the cost to the animals in terms of potential pain and distress. In all studies, the use of a specific species must be justified. In some cases, the proposed species is the target species or may serve as a good model for a human or other animal disease or process. In other instances, the anatomy, physiology, size, or behavior may make the species best suited to the study. The lowest species that can provide relevant data should be used; for example, if the research involves studying the efficacy of a vaccine for an infectious agent that only infects horses, the use of a mouse model may not be relevant.

While something as simple as the definition of “animal” may seem obvious, the term “animal” for regulatory purposes differs between federal and accrediting agencies (see Footnotes for the complete definitions). For example, Public Health Service (PHS)\(^1\) defines an animal as “any live, vertebrate animal used or intended for use in research, research training, experimentation, or biological testing or for related purposes.” USDA\(^2\) expands the term to cover “live or dead” animals, but then restricts it to warm-blooded animals and further excludes mice (of the genus *Mus*), rats (of the genus *Rattus*), and birds that have been bred for research. USDA also excludes horses not used for research (for human models) and the majority of farm animals. The Association for the Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care, International (AAALAC)\(^2\) also includes invertebrates in its definition. Because CSU receives grant awards from PHS, uses species covered by USDA, and is AAALAC-accredited, the definition of “animal” used by the IACUC in protocol reviews must encompass the various definitions set forth by all of these organizations. It is important to note that some of the definitions and regulations mandated by the various agencies may be products of the political process and may not always truly reflect animal “welfare.” In contrast, the IACUC tries to base their decisions on rational ethics.

CSU investigators utilize a wide variety of species in their research from laboratory mice and rats to albatrosses and wildebeests in field studies. Given this diversity of animal use, how does the IACUC ensure that all species are treated equally? The general public may be more accepting of the use of rodents as opposed to the use of dogs and cats in research. Given this, should the review of “socially popular” animals such as cats, dogs, and horses be more thorough than that for mice? By the same token, should the IACUC review a protocol that uses guinea pigs (a USDA-covered species) more stringently than a protocol that uses rats (a species not covered by the USDA)? Since mice and rats serve as convenient models, the IACUC approves more of these species number-wise than other species. However, mice and rats should not simply be regarded as “in vivo test tubes.” Indeed, while the IACUC’s determination includes a consideration of the species of animal used, it also focuses on the invasiveness and the potential of the proposed procedures to cause pain and distress in that species. It is the IACUC’s responsibility to strive to provide equivalent protocol and facilities review for all species and to investigate animal welfare concerns consistently regardless of the species.

- Karen Sellins, PhD, Asst. Director & IACUC Sr. Coordinator, Research Integrity & Compliance Review Office

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\(^1\) PHS—Public Health Service Policy (III.A) Animal - *Any live, vertebrate* animal used or intended for use in research, research training, experimentation, or biological testing or for related purposes.

\(^2\) USDA—AWA § 2132(g) and AWR 9CFR Part 1, §1.1 *“Animal”* means any live or dead dog, cat, nonhuman primate, guinea pig, hamster, rabbit, or any other warmblooded animal, which is being used, or is intended for use for research, teaching, testing, experimentation, or exhibition purposes, or as a pet. This term excludes: Birds, rats of the genus *Rattus* and mice of the genus *Mus* bred for use in research, and horses not used for research purposes and other farm animals, such as, but not
limited to livestock or poultry, used or intended for use as food or fiber, or livestock or poultry used or intended for use for improving animal nutrition, breeding, management, or production efficiency, or for improving the quality of food or fiber.

AAALAC--All vertebrate animals used or to be used in research, teaching or testing at accreditable units are to be included and evaluated in relation to the principles set forth in The Guide. This includes traditional laboratory animals, farm animals, wildlife, and aquatic animals. Nontraditional animals, inclusive of invertebrate species, are also included where they are relevant to the unit's mission.

*** Have something to say to the CSU research community? We welcome contributions to the RICRO Report!***

Upcoming Events

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<th>October, 2007</th>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, Oct 4</td>
<td>ACUC/IACUC semiannual inspection of CSU animal facilities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, Oct 9</td>
<td>A-100 ACUC/IACUC protocol submission deadline @ NOON</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, Oct 11</td>
<td>H-100 HRC/IRB protocol submission deadline @ NOON</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, Oct 17</td>
<td>ACUC/IACUC monthly meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, Oct 18</td>
<td>HRC/IRB monthly meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, Nov 9</td>
<td>IBC protocol submission deadline @ NOON</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, Nov 14</td>
<td>IBC bimonthly meeting</td>
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Articles for CSU Animal Users

Using animal subjects for biomedical research that is aimed at curing the world's most devastating human and animal diseases imposes a special responsibility upon investigators. As part of assuming that responsibility, the RICRO Report will occasionally pass on relevant literature or animal welfare regulations that we come across. This month we have three items that you may be interested in:

- Updated AVMA Guidelines on Euthanasia (2007)
- "NIH Policy on Allowable Costs for Grant Activities Involving Animals when Terms and Conditions are not Upheld." The OMB Cost Principles and the NIH Grants Policy Statement (NIHGPS) do not permit charges to grant awards for the conduct of animal activities during periods of time that the terms and conditions of the NIHGPS are not upheld. Specific situations under which charges are not allowable are: 1) The conduct of animal activities in the absence of a valid Assurance on file with OLAW. 2) The conduct of animal activities in the absence of valid IACUC approval of the activity. Absence of IACUC approval includes failure to obtain IACUC approval, expiration, or suspension of IACUC approval. Suspension is described in the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals at section IV.C.6. (http://grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/references/phspol.htm)
- Preparing for the semiannual review. Connection, Fall 2005. October is the month the IACUC may schedule a visit to your lab as part of CSU’s semiannual inspection. This article provides
a good overview of the inspection process and how it can improve our Animal Care Program. If you have any questions or concerns about this October’s inspection, please contact us at 1-1553.

Introducing Baby Martin!

Laura (IACUC Coordinator) and Steve Martin welcomed Jackson “Ooki” Wyatt into the world on Aug. 31st at 7:33pm.

He weighed in at a whopping 9 lbs. 11 oz. and was 22 inches long. Mother and baby are doing fine. We miss you, Laura!

RICRO Open House

A heartfelt “thank you” to all the old and new friends who stopped by the RICRO Open House on Friday, Sept. 14th. It was great to meet new PIs and put a face to the names of some of our longtime frequent flyers. We hope to be able to host more gatherings of the research community that interfaces with the IBC, IRB, DRC and IACUC.