Institutional Review Board Winter Retreat & Update on eProtocol

The Institutional Review Board (yes, this is the group that used to be called the Human Research Committee) kicked off the new year with their Winter Retreat at Primrose Studio, a meeting facility in north Fort Collins. The IRB was able to tackle some important issues such as the upcoming implementation and use of the human research on-line protocol submission and review system, eProtocol. Sylk Sotto-Santiago, the Research Compliance Manager at the University of Denver, was the IRB’s invited speaker for the retreat. DU adopted eProtocol approximately one year ago, and Sylk shared DU’s experiences using the system. Human subject researchers will be happy to hear that the principal investigators at DU have enthusiastically adopted the system and have had very positive experiences in the first year of its use. RICRO is still collecting names of PIs on campus who would like to be part of our pool of PIs willing to test eProtocol (Contact: janell.barker@research.colostate.edu if you would like to be a faculty tester). RICRO is expecting that PIs will be able to submit protocols electronically by late summer; training for all interested faculty will be offered starting June 2008.

The Winter Retreat also gave the IRB time to discuss some of the finer points of protocol review. Check out some photos from the day at the end of this RICRO Report. Thank you IRB for all your time and service to the university!

Essay of the Month: “Teaching Responsible Conduct of Research at CSU”

All across this campus, faculty members in a number of disciplines are developing and offering new courses on ethics for graduate and undergraduate students. These courses are known as “RCR” (Responsible Conduct of Research) curricula. They are intended to help students understand their responsibilities in performing ethical research and scholarly activities. As the University Bioethicist, Dr. Bernard Rollin has said, “We at CSU are committed to maximizing the ethical dimensions of what
research and scholarship we conduct, as well as the scientific dimensions.” Although most students are motivated to perform their research ethically, to really understand how to put this into practice takes new, specific knowledge that is not covered in traditional, discipline-specific courses. The development of ethics courses that are relevant to a specific discipline is not a simple task, and some of these faculty have turned to the NIH/NSF-supported “Teaching Survival Skills and Ethics Workshop” that is held annually in the mountains of Colorado, to assist them develop curricula. CSU has the added advantage of having a Philosophy department that has a long history of being actively engaged in what may be viewed as “cross-over” education, the merging of science and ethics training. Principal investigators on extramural training grants may be relieved to see these courses emerging, since a stipulation of receiving most federal funding is that trainees supported by these funds are provided didactic training in RCR. For example, the guidelines for an NIH Kirschstein-NRSA individual fellowship state that the application must contain “plans for obtaining instruction in the responsible conduct of research … Possible coverage could include conflict of interest, responsible authorship, policies for handling misconduct, data management, data sharing, policies for the use of animals and/or human subjects, and organizational (rather than individual) responsibilities for scientific integrity.” PIs need RCR courses to fulfill these requirements, but they are also cognizant of the fact that RCR courses help better prepare students for the ethical challenges that will likely confront them as their careers progress.

One of the most important missions of RICRO is to provide and support RCR activities on campus. We do this in a number of ways. One is by assisting the regulatory committees in providing basic training in the conduct of human subjects research (IRB training), animal subjects research (IACUC training) and the use of infectious agents and recombinant DNA (IBC training). These training opportunities are posted on the RICRO website. In addition, RICRO makes available trainers who go out to individual departments to present a one-hour seminar on ethics, research misconduct and regulatory compliance. Similar overviews are provided to new graduate students and even new faculty members.

The Vice President for Research, Dr. Bill Farland, highly values RCR education and has a clear vision of an expanded RCR program at CSU. As a unit within this division, RICRO will be working hard over the next year to contribute to the shape and scope of the CSU RCR program. We continue to reach out to the research community to ask what its specific RCR needs are, so that new programs can help meet these needs. If you are interested in participating in RCR education at CSU, please contact us. We hope that over the next few months and semesters we will be able to provide more opportunities for like-minded RCR advocates to assemble and discuss RCR issues.

**Kathy Partin, RICRO Director**

**Upcoming Events - February 2008**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><em>Tuesday, February 12:</em></th>
<th>IACUC Protocol-Submission Deadline (Noon) See Q&amp;A section for further information on deadline time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday, February 14:</strong></td>
<td>IRB Protocol-Submission Deadline (Noon)</td>
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<td>Tuesday, February 19:</td>
<td>IACUC Meeting</td>
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<td>Wednesday, February 20:</td>
<td>Orientation to CSU Animal Care Program (see next section for details)</td>
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<td>Thursday, February 21:</td>
<td>IRB Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, February 29:</td>
<td>IRB Human Subjects Protection Training Session (9:00-11:30 @ RICRO)</td>
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*Remember: IACUC submission deadline is always noon the second Tuesday of the month.*

**Remember: IRB submission deadline is always noon the second Thursday of the month**
Announcing LAR’s new Associate Director: Lon Kendall

LAR has announced that Dr. Lon Kendall has accepted CSU’s offer of employment and plans to begin work at CSU the first week of April. He is busy in his present position as the Director of Laboratory Animal Resources at the University of California, Davis.

Lon comes to CSU extremely well-qualified for the second-in-command job at LAR and the person who will be responsible for the day-to-day operations. A graduate of CSU’s veterinary school (’94), he acquired his board certification in the American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine (’99) and a Ph.D. in Veterinary Pathobiology (2000) while at the University of Missouri. He started working at Davis the same year.

The vet school at Davis supports care of pets of indigent owners through a student-run clinic in Sacramento, the Mercer Clinic for the Homeless. Lon periodically volunteers his veterinary skills to this cause.

Lon and his wife, Kathy, are expecting their second child this month. The baby, a girl, will join daughter, Haley; they plan to name her Mikaela. Lon and Kathy share an interest in skiing and scuba diving (they have dived in Hawaii, the Bahamas and Baja). Lon enjoys soccer; he formerly played with a soccer club, although he has not played in a while. Lon mentioned that he also has done extensive renovation in their house in California, “Although I’m not very good at it.”

Lon and Kathy are looking forward to being in Colorado, closer to family in Denver and Arizona. They are near finalizing the purchase of a house in this area to be a new home for their family and animals, including two goats and two horses.

Welcome to CSU, Lon! We are all looking forward to working with you!


Institutional Biosafety Committee - Survey

Thank you to everyone who took the time to fill out the IBC survey! We had a very good response. Your many kind words will be passed along to the members of the IBC. Issues brought up in the survey will be addressed at the next IBC meeting. If you have any additional comments for the IBC, please feel free to contact the IBC Senior Coordinator, Christine Johnson, at: 491-8690; Christine.johnson@research.colostate.edu.

Controlled-Substance Database – Receives high marks!

Principal Investigators who must order/possess Controlled Substances for their research or teaching endeavors are required to renew their approval to possess these controlled substances every December. This year, PIs were able to renew their controlled-substance approval with a few clicks of their computer.
mouse. RICRO would like to thank Dr. Dick Bowen for designing and helping to launch this database. We are pleased to report that the response from PIs has been overwhelmingly positive. Thank you for being patient while we have worked through tweaking the system to make it convenient for everyone to use.

To either apply for controlled-substance approval or view what you are approved for, please log into the system: https://protocols.research.colostate.edu/roc/

Any questions regarding the controlled-substance database, please contact: Evelyn Swiss (491-1381) evelyn.swiss@research.colostate.edu

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The University Veterinarian Presents…

**Orientation to the Animal Care Program**

Researchers and research staff new to CSU are encouraged to attend the Orientation to CSU’s Animal Care Program:

When: Wednesday, February 20\textsuperscript{th} - 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.  
Presented by: James Owiny, University Veterinarian  
Where: Lory Student Center 211 E

Come enjoy a continental breakfast while learning about the many components of CSU’s animal care program. Speakers will include representatives from the Office of the Vice President for Research, Research Integrity & Compliance Review Office, Laboratory Animal Resources, the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee and more.

Please RSVP: 491-7184 or denise.ostmeyer@research.colostate.edu

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**Basic Research Techniques with Mice and Rats**

The University Veterinarian, James Owiny, will be hosting Basic Research Techniques with Mice and Rats on March 4\textsuperscript{th} from 9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. This workshop is designed to provide an introduction to a variety of procedures for those who are new to rodent research, and an opportunity for all researchers to practice and refine their skills. Each segment will include a demonstration and detailed explanation of the procedures, followed by hands on practice. Topics will include; handling, restraint, animal identification, injections, blood collection, oral gavage and euthanasia. This course will be limited to 10 participants, and pre-registration is required.

Contact Denise Ostmeyer to register or for more information at: 491-7184 or denise.ostmeyer@research.colostate.edu.
Johns Hopkins Center for Alternatives to Animal Testing (CAAT) Announces GRANTS PROGRAM FOR 2009-2010

Deadline: Pre-proposals must be received by February 22, 2008

Full Proposals: Applicants whose proposals meet the goals of the CAAT Grants Program will be invited to submit a complete grant application package.

CAAT is soliciting pre-proposals for grant projects that focus on the following areas:

- **Refinement**: maximum grant amount is $25,000 per year.
  These grants focus specifically on the issues of alleviating pain and/or distress in laboratory protocols through the development of better methods for pain assessment, alleviation, elimination and/or prevention of pain in animal experiments.

- **Proposals relating to toxicology**: maximum grant amount is $25,000 per year.
  Projects in this category should seek to provide understanding of mechanism/mode of action and to consider how one would be able to translate the mechanism to a method that can be used to evaluate/predict health consequences.

- **Developmental Toxicology**: maximum grant amount is $50,000 per year.
  The Center is interested in proposals focusing on Developmental Toxicology and Developmental Neurotoxicology. These studies can be either *in vitro*, involve embryonic stem cells, or involve species such as *c. elegans* or zebrafish. Proposed projects should seek to provide understanding of mechanism/mode of action and to consider how one would be able to translate the mechanism to a method that can be used to evaluate/predict health consequences. Whole-animal, mammalian studies are not appropriate.

For more information: [http://caat.jhsph.edu/programs/grants/preproposal.htm](http://caat.jhsph.edu/programs/grants/preproposal.htm).

**Frequently Asked Questions and Answers**

**Q**: When do I have to have my completed protocol application in to RICRO in order for it to be considered at the current month’s IACUC meeting?
A: IACUC submission deadline is always NOON the second Tuesday of the month. While we have been able to occasionally add protocols to the agenda after the noon deadline, at the request of the IACUC, we will no longer be able to do this. Please keep in mind that your protocol will be reviewed the following month if you bring your A-100 to RICRO after the noon deadline.

Q: I just received the approval memo for an A-100 that I submitted to the IACUC for a protocol that has been approved for three years (i.e., the A-100 was my 4th-year renewal). I noticed that the protocol now has a new number. Why did I receive a new number?

A: RICRO is implementing a slight change to the process for 4th-year renewals of animal protocols. As of January 1, 2008 all protocols submitted for their 4th-year renewal will be assigned a new protocol number when they receive IACUC approval. This change is being implemented for record keeping purposes.