Essay of the Month: Animal User Committee Plays Advisory Role to Institution

RICRO staff recently spoke with a couple members of the Animal User Committee (AUC) to gain some insight into this committee’s mission related to animal research and welfare program here at CSU. The AUC plays a vital role in advising the Vice President for Research (VPR) about a wide range of matters related to animal research by CSU investigators. Composed of six investigators from varied disciplines across the University, the committee advises the VPR regarding how the animal care and use program at CSU can be improved to facilitate the efficient conduct of vital research. Among the issues that the AUC keeps its eye on are the status of animal facilities and animal use-related business processes. The AUC attempts to anticipate trends in research involving animals at CSU and to help the institution remain prepared for the infrastructure needed to keep scientific discovery progressing.

At the same time, the committee serves as a conduit for PI comments and concerns over the animal care and use program. In this capacity they communicate individual PI concerns to the VPR and, along with open communication with the IACUC, help to alleviate difficulties and facilitate research. In fulfilling this function, the committee
often visits PI labs to get a better sense of what investigators’ needs are in order to better relay those needs to the VPR’s Office.

As AUC member Mike Antolin put it, the AUC goal is to recognize the need for regulatory compliance with federal regulations regarding animal research, while simultaneously helping the animal care and use program move forward, anticipating process changes that facilitate the conduct of research. The committee stresses, however, that its focus is not on regulatory compliance, as that is the purview of the IACUC.

Key to the AUC’s ability to function effectively is for the various members of the animal research community (PIs, IACUC, LAR, and RICRO) to communicate early and often. The AUC exists to serve a central role in this communication effort. The committee meets every 8-10 weeks, and welcomes input from individual investigators. AUC Chair Simon Turner commented that investigators with concerns over animal use issues should feel free to contact him to bring those concerns before the AUC. Dr. Turner can be reached at sturner@colostate.edu or by phone at 297-0379.

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**eProtocol Update:**

As I am sure you have heard, the IRB is quickly moving to an online protocol submission-and-review system: eProtocol. As we prepare to launch the system within the next couple months, we are working diligently to populate the electronic system with as much of your protocol information as possible so that when you log on for the first time, you will see “skeletons” of most (if not all!) of your active protocols.

To accomplish this, we are scanning and uploading your protocol documents into the system. Over the next week or two, we will be contacting all PIs with IRB approved protocols asking which protocols you would like loaded into the system. We would appreciate it if you would let us know if you will soon be closing any currently active protocols. If you think that you will renew all your protocols, we will go ahead and prepare the files for you on eProtocol. However, if you plan to close any protocols within the next few months, we will not upload the files associated with it. As you can imagine, this is a big undertaking for our office, and we are thankful for your patience and cooperation.

We will be offering group training sessions on how to create, clone, amend, and renew protocols in eProtocol throughout the summer. Thank you for your help with this transition. Please do not hesitate to contact Evelyn (1-1381) or Janell (1-1655) with any questions about eProtocol.

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**Clinical Research Review Board Assists in the Review of Animal Protocols**

In an effort to ensure adequate peer review for all research projects involving the use of animals, the CSU Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) has requested the assistance of the Clinical Research Review Board (CRRB). The CRRB will review protocols at the request of an individual investigator or at the request of the IACUC, particularly protocols for clinical research projects that have not received an external peer review.
Many proposals will not need to be evaluated by the CRRB. However, if the IACUC has any questions regarding the scientific or clinical merit of the proposal, the proposal can be tabled pending an evaluation by the CRRB. The RICRO will contact the chair of the CRRB (Currently Dr. Lappin, Department of Clinical Sciences) when the IACUC wishes to obtain an opinion of the CRRB as a condition of A-100 approval. In some cases, the IACUC may have specific questions to be addressed by the CRRB, while other times, the IACUC may request a more general evaluation.

To save time during the IACUC review, if the investigator believes an opinion from the CRRB would be beneficial, the IACUC will allow for a pre-review. However, it is expected that the materials submitted to the CRRB be identical to those that will be submitted to the IACUC. To initiate a review, please send your A-100 and informed owner consent form by email attachment to the chair of the CRRB (mlappin@mail.colostate.edu).

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**Clinical Research with Client-Owned Animals Requires an Approved Client Consent Form**

IACUC currently requires informed owner consent on all research projects involving client-, staff- or student-owned animals. Investigators planning to use client- staff-, or student-owned animals at the VMC must submit a copy of their client consent form to the Director of the VMC for review and approval. Investigators must submit a signed copy of the approved client consent form or an approval email from the VMC Director to the IACUC along with the A-100. The Clinical Review Board will aid the VMC director in determining the content of the written informed owner consent form if asked by the VMC Director or IACUC.

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**Schedule of Upcoming Events – June/July 2008**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, June 19:</td>
<td>IRB Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>*Tuesday, July 8:</td>
<td>IACUC Protocol-Submission Deadline (Noon)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday, July 10:</strong></td>
<td>IRB Protocol-Submission Deadline (Noon)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, July 15:</td>
<td>IACUC Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, July 17:</td>
<td>IRB Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, July 23:</td>
<td>IRB Human Subjects Protection Training Session (1:00-3:30 - RICRO)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, July 30:</td>
<td>IBC Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday-Thursday, Aug. 13-14</td>
<td>CSU Hosts the IACUC 101/201 Plus course (OLAW)</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**
Christy and Ben Welcome A Baby Girl!

Congratulations and best wishes to our IBC Senior Coordinator, Christy Johnson, who just had a baby girl on June 18! Izzy Mae is a healthy 8 lbs., 9 oz, and is 20.5" long. Mom and baby are doing great! Christy will be taking some time off to enjoy her family, but will be back with us at RICRO part-time in September.

We’ll miss you Christy, and we wish you the best of times home with Izzy, Owen, and Ben!

It’s going to be tough managing without Christy, but the RICRO staff will be working hard to fill in for Christy as best we can. In Christy’s absence, Kathy Partin will be the Senior IBC Coordinator. Please contact Kathy with your IBC-related questions (Kathy.partin@research.colostate.edu).

Top Ten Hot Tips for a Cool Review this Summer!
(In no particular order!)

1. Always download the latest version of the application from our website.
2. Answer all questions on the application. Leave nothing blank - if you believe that the question does not apply to your study write "NA."
3. Know the firm deadlines (visit our website).
4. Read the lay summary to your grandmother. If she doesn't understand it, rewrite it until she does.
5. Know who’s who in our office - call the appropriate coordinator for help!
6. Indicate the PASS number on your application. This will ensure that the funding for your account will be set up as quickly as possible after approval.
7. Anticipate the signature chain required. Consider walking the application from place to place instead of depending on several mailings to complete your application (all applications must have original signatures prior to approval).
8. Stay up-to-date by reading the RICRO Report each month. We expect to change many of our processes in the near future, as we are moving to electronic systems for protocol submission, renewal, and closure. It is our aim to provide information for investigators concerning our procedures as they are restructured.
9. Don’t hesitate to call the office with any questions you may have as you fill out your paperwork. RICRO’s staff enjoys talking with PIs about their work!
10. Take advantage of RICRO’s offer to pre-review your protocol.
Training Sessions and RICRO meetings (IACUC, IRB, IBC) – Where are they now?

If you have been at a training session or meeting here at the RICRO office, you may have noticed that our meeting room can be on the crowded side. Fortunately, we have been able to spread out a bit and will now have most of our training sessions and meetings in 340 General Services Building (same building, same floor, just around the corner from our office). We think you will feel more comfortable, and will enjoy a bit more elbow room here. Let us know what you think!

Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (NIH), CSU, National Wildlife Research Center, and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will host IACUC 101/201 PLUS

CSU will be co-hosting IACUC 101/201 PLUS on August 13th & 14th 2008 at the Hilton Fort Collins, 425 W. Prospect Road (www.hiltonfortcollins.com)

“The IACUC 101 series consists of didactic and interactive educational programs designed to provide IACUC (Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee) members, administrators, veterinarians, animal care staff, researchers, regulatory personnel and compliance officers with information on the role and responsibilities of IACUCs, including an understanding of federal policies and regulations governing laboratory animal welfare.”

For more information about this special learning opportunity taking place right here in Fort Collins, please visit http://grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/iacuc101s.htm or contact Denise Ostmeyer at: 491-7184.


New A-100

Please note that a new version of the A-100 is now posted on the RICRO website. Please try to use the new version for future application submissions; you can download the current version at http://web.research.colostate.edu/ricro/acuc/forms.aspx. As the IACUC is moving toward eProtocol, this is likely the last update you will see to the A-100 until the application process goes online.
Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

Q: I have obtained approval from the IBC to use adenovirus in my lab. I recently submitted an SP1 for a grant proposal with NIH and I checked “Yes” indicating that my grant does require the use of infectious agents. If I already have approval to use this agent, why did I receive a pink slip from RICRO and a comment on the SP1 that my IBC status was “To Be Submitted,” but not approved?

A: Although you may have approval to use a certain infectious agent, you must also have a Project Agent Request Form (PARF) approved in order to conduct a project with your approved agent. For more information on biosafety issues, please go to: http://web.research.colostate.edu/ricro/ibc/ibc.aspx

RICRO’s Wide World of Sports!

“Congratulations are in order!”

RICRO’s own Molly Gutilla competed in the Horsetooth Trail Run on June 8, 2008, earning 2nd place in the Women’s division. The grueling 14+ mile-long course traverses trails and service roads in Horsetooth Mountain Park, taking the competitors up and down 1900 feet as they work their way up and down the mountain.

Molly also competed in the 5430 Sprint Triathlon in Boulder on June 15. The triathlon involved a ½ mile swim in Boulder Reservoir, a 17-mile bike course, and a 3.1 mile run. Molly continues to train for future triathlons, so look for more reports of victory from RICRO.

"Was that Terry Engle sprinting through the finish line of the Fathers' Day 5K?"

Yes, it was Terry in the 5K!! IACUC chair and Associate Professor of Animal Science, Terry Engle, successfully completed the Father’s Day 5K on June 15. We won’t delve into the complex measures of success other than to say that Terry was standing at the end with enough energy left to run the fun run with his kids after the finish of the 5K. Way to go Terry!!

Following the tradition of ABC’s Wide World of Sports, we'll continue covering running, triathlons, and any of the lesser-known sports that folks we know participate in. If you know of other thrills of victory or agonies of defeat that are fit to print, please drop us a line!