

# ***The IACUC Connection***

**Volume 8, no. 4, FALL 2014**

**WELCOME** to the 33<sup>rd</sup> edition of the ***IACUC Connection***, a quarterly newsletter designed to help researchers with questions regarding animal research at the University of Connecticut Health Center. Our 33<sup>rd</sup> issue is going to update you on changes coming your way. Please note that the IACUC values your opinions and concerns; if you have any questions, concerns, opinions, etc., please contact the IACUC office at [ooacc@uchc.edu](mailto:ooacc@uchc.edu).

## **New Animal Tower to Open in 2015**

### **Center for Comparative Medicine Animal Tower Renovation and Upgrades**

The long awaited renovation of the animal tower will be completed by February 15, 2015! The 40,000 square foot renovation cost \$15 million dollars. The total capacity of the renovated space can house up to 12,000 rodent cages with a dedicated floor for large animals on the second floor.

The relocation of the animals from the current housing facility to the new tower will be done in a phased manner, probably by room location of the PI offices. CCM staff will send out further updates very soon.

Each floor of the animal tower will have two procedure rooms. This is aimed at minimizing the movement of animals from the tower to the research laboratories, thereby enhancing our biosecurity. Both CCM and the IACUC encourage the use of these procedure rooms. Most likely, sign-up sheets will be on the doors of the procedure rooms for a first-come, first-serve basis, though this has not yet been set in stone.

In addition, the new animal tower will house several core facilities including a small animal imaging suite on the 7<sup>th</sup> floor, an ABSL-2 (biohazard) suite on the 6<sup>th</sup> floor, a chemical isolation suite on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor, and an animal behavioral suite on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor. The ABSL-2 suite will have two holding rooms with biosafety cabinets and a procedure room all off an anteroom that has a hand washing sink and an eye wash station. The ABSL-2 procedure room will also have a biosafety cabinet and benches for performing work. The chemical isolation suite consists of two adjoining holding rooms each with ventilated cage racks and a Class II type B1 biosafety cabinet and one room will have a ventilated weigh station. All are exhausted to the outside through hazard-rated ducting. This should assure state-of-the-art exposure control for all personnel involved with using biohazardous materials and chemicals in animals.

This new renovation is in addition to the renovations now completed in the basement of the animal tower. A \$9.2 million dollar upgrade, using NIH-NCRR Recovery Act Construction Support- G20 Grant money was performed on our washrooms, surgical suites, autoclaves, and offices. This is an exciting time for our facility!

### **GTTF Update**

CCM has taken over the administrative duties for the Gene Targeting and Transgenic Facility (GTTF). This includes billing, procurement, and colony and facility management. Please contact CCM at x2303 for any issues related to the GTTF administrative operation. For any issues related to work performed in the GTTF, please contact Dr. Siu-Pok Yee at x3726.

## **Center for Comparative Medicine Website Update**

The online training modules have been updated and included on the CCM website. These modules include: training videos for survival rodent surgery, rodent technical and restraint procedures, blood collection, genotyping, and euthanasia procedures. You can find the training at <http://comparativemedicine.uchc.edu/training/>. PLEASE NOTE: These online training videos will not replace or meet the initial or annual training requirements for the use of animals at the UCHC. The university mandated training will be provided by the IACUC.

## New Animal User Training Starts in 2015

The IACUC has approved a new training program and it will start in January 2015. Under this new training program, all individuals using animals will be required to have yearly renewal training. This renewal training is going to be a PowerPoint presentation, located on the web, which individuals will have to access and then sign that they have reviewed the presentation. This will be all done through SharePoint, similar to the way OHS enrollment is performed. Personnel not having UConn Health access will be required to use CITI modules for renewal training.

Yearly training will run from January to October so that the presentation can be updated and approved by the committee for the following year during November and December for any given year. The presentation is designed to draw attention to important laws/regulations/policies of which all animal users should be aware. It will also discuss the most common reasons that required the IACUC to report instances of non-compliance to the Office for Laboratory Animal Welfare, National Institutes of Health (OLAW-NIH), and the United States Department of Agriculture- Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA-APHIS). It is hoped that this new format will bring relevant and important information to researchers in a timely and concise manner. It is felt by the IACUC that the new training will have more “bang for the buck”; hopefully, more timely and relevant information requiring less time for the researchers to complete.

We welcome your feedback on the new program when it is instituted in 2015. The process for renewal training will essentially stay the same. The IACUC office will inform individuals when they need to complete the training and it is requested that people do not do the renewal training until they are assigned a completion date by the IACUC office.

## Compliance with Counting “Unused” Pups

The IACUC has had a policy regarding “unused” pups since 2005. However, communication with OLAW in October of 2011 prompted a significant change to this policy. The IACUC would like to discuss this significant change and how it impacts researchers.

OLAW has stated that any animal that has been bred for research purposes, whether or not they are “used” for research procedures, **must be counted** toward the number of approved animals stated in the approved protocol. For an example, let’s say that a research project uses transgenic animals. Let’s also say that the transgenic animals required are the result of breeding heterozygous parents. Let’s also say that only female animals can be used in the research. The justification for animal numbers must include the animals that are required to create that specific transgenic female animal. For instance, let’s say that the transgenic is fairly simple and the het x het mating will result in the correct genotype 50% of the time. Let’s also say that 50% of the time, one will also obtain the correct sex. For simplicity sake, let’s say that 25% of the animals you breed will be animals you can “use” experimentally. Say you need 5,000 animals for your research design; therefore, you would need to produce 20,000 mice to get your female correct genotype animals for your research. This is always done in a protocol in the “Rationale for Animal Numbers” section. But the 15,000 animals generated that cannot be used experimentally still need to be counted toward the approved animal numbers.

The problem: let’s say that researchers genotype their animals and find the 50% that aren’t the correct genotype and euthanize those animals prior to weaning- without stating these animals were “used” (and they **were** used because they were produced for research purposes). Therefore, these animal numbers do not come off the total numbers approved, and researchers are actually using 50% **MORE** animals than have been approved for use by the IACUC. OLAW has stated categorically that this is contrary to federal regulations. It is the PI’s responsibility to ensure that all animals are accounted for in the course of their IACUC protocol. Compliance with this requirement will be on the honor system; however, protocols which have breeding as a procedure will be monitored periodically and PIs will be reminded, as necessary, about this requirement.

If you have any questions regarding the counting of “unused” pups (anything used or euthanized prior to weaning), please contact the IACUC office at [ooacc@uchc.edu](mailto:ooacc@uchc.edu). If you have questions about how to account for these “unused” pups in Granite, please contact CCM at x2731.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### *What if I don't complete my animal user training by the date assigned?*

Nothing changes compared to the current system. Training is required to be completed by the assigned due date. If an individual fails to complete training, they will receive a letter from the IACUC stating that they will be given until "X" date to complete training or their ability to access the animal facility will be revoked. Should completion still not be accomplished by that date, access to the facility will be revoked and the individual will be given a second letter from the IACUC stating that they now have until "X" date to complete training or ALL PROTOCOLS in which they are listed as an animal user will be suspended by the IACUC. Suspensions are an automatic report to the OLAW and the USDA.

### *Do new people still need to take initial animal user training?*

Yes. Animal users new to UConn Health still must sign up for initial animal user training by completing the registration form located on the web at <http://iacuc.uhc.edu/training/initialtraining.html>. There are no changes to initial animal user training requirements.

### *Are CITI courses going to be used at all anymore?*

Yes. However, the IACUC is going to use CITI courses when more intensive training is required, e.g., when there is significant non-compliance on the part of an individual or laboratory or when the IACUC determines that a CITI training course would be more beneficial than the new renewal training PowerPoint presentations. Use of CITI courses are at the discretion of the IACUC.

If you have questions you'd like to see answered in future issues, please send them to [pohl@uchc.edu](mailto:pohl@uchc.edu) and we will do our best to answer as many questions as possible.

## Upcoming Training, October 2014 – January 2015

### Initial Basic Core Training

Monday, October 6	9:00 am – 12:00 pm	Low Learning Center
Monday, November 10	9:00 am – 12:00 pm	Low Learning Center
Monday, December 8	9:00 am – 12:00 pm	Low Learning Center
Monday, January 12	9:00 am – 12:00 pm	Low Learning Center

**PLEASE NOTE:** Individuals who wish to attend training must complete a registration form and submit it to the IACUC office. Forms and instructions are located on the web at <http://iacuc.uhc.edu/training/initialtraining.html>.

## New Institutional, State, or Federal Regulations

### Institutional

Please review all of our IACUC Policies. They are located on the web at <http://acc.uhc.edu/policies/index.html>. All animal users are responsible for knowing and complying with all IACUC approved policies.

### State

None

### Federal

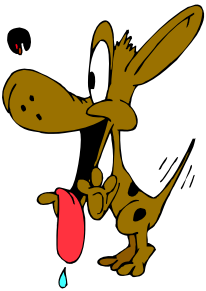
None

## Important Reminders to Principal Investigators

⦿ When an individual leaves your laboratory, and is no longer an active animal user, you **must** contact the IACUC Office ([ooacc@uchc.edu](mailto:ooacc@uchc.edu)) with this information.

⦿ If any unexpected morbidity and/or mortality occurs in any experimental animal, you **must** contact the IACUC office ([ooacc@uchc.edu](mailto:ooacc@uchc.edu)) with this information.

⦿ Always remember to list **ALL** transgenic and gene targeted animals and their origin in your animal care and use protocols. If you have any questions regarding transgenic or gene-targeted animals, please contact the IACUC office ([ooacc@uchc.edu](mailto:ooacc@uchc.edu)) or the Biosafety Officer ([rwallace@adp.uhc.edu](mailto:rwallace@adp.uhc.edu)) for help.



## Next Issue: Surprise!

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