

IACUC Update

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee
The University of Texas at Austin

October 2012

Volume 6, Issue 2

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT Regarding UT-Austin's Upcoming AAALAC Site Visit

The University of Texas at Austin's triennial accreditation site visit with the Association for the Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care, International (AAALAC) will take place **November 13-16, 2012**.

Though our animal care and use program remains "AAALAC ready" throughout the year, this is a good time to remind everyone to be mindful of all ARC and IACUC policies and procedures.

Attached to this newsletter is information about the site visit and recommendations to help you prepare.

A general visit agenda and schedule is included with this newsletter. Due to the fluid nature of the visit, we cannot provide any additional information about when the visitors will reach your individual lab.

Please do not hesitate to contact the ARC (512-471-0091) or the Office of Research Support (512-475-8650) if you have any questions regarding the university's animal care and use program.

Updated "Whistle Blower" Posting

Any person who has concerns regarding any aspect of the care and use of animals in research, teaching, or testing at The University of Texas at Austin is encouraged to voice that concern.

Concerns about animal care and use should be reported to the Attending Veterinarian, the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, or University Compliance Services.

A poster containing this information is available on the IACUC website and should be posted in animal facilities (including labs):

http://www.utexas.edu/research/rsc/iacuc/forms/whistle_blower_posting_2012.pdf

Submitting Documents to the HealthPoint Occupational Health Program

The *HealthPoint* Occupational Health Program (OHP) would like to remind investigators about how documents should be submitted to the *HealthPoint* OHP office.

The *HealthPoint* staff highly recommended that completed documents be emailed to their dedicated email address:

HealthPoint.OHP@austin.utexas.edu

Alternatively, documents can be faxed to:

(512) 471-2666

Mailing documents via campus mail is not recommended as the mail system is slow and can cause increased processing delays.

All *HealthPoint* OHP forms are available at: <http://www.utexas.edu/hr/current/services/ohp.html>



eProtocol Tip of the Month

Over the summer UT ITS disabled the long-used "@mail.utexas.edu" email addresses. Consequently, we are seeing a large number of email 'bounces' from eProtocol due to outdated email addresses still listed within eProtocol. Please remember to review the email addresses of protocol personnel on the "Personnel Info" section of your protocol the next time you need to submit a revision or renewal.

The next IACUC Full Committee Review (FCR) is **December 17, 2012**.

The deadline to submit materials for review is **November 20, 2012**.

Animal Welfare Assurance

A4107-01

AAALAC Accredited Since

October 29, 2001

Please contact the Office of Research Support with any questions, comments, or concerns.
voice: 512.475.8650 | web: <http://www.utexas.edu/IACUC> | email: IACUC@austin.utexas.edu

**Important Announcement Regarding UT-Austin's Upcoming AAALAC Site Visit:
November 13-16, 2012**

TO: UT-Austin Animal Research Community
FROM: Glen Otto, D.V.M., DACLAM, Director, Animal Resources Center
RE: AAALAC SITE VISIT, November 13-16, 2012

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The Association for the Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care, International (AAALAC, Intl.) will conduct its regular triennial site visit to The University of Texas at Austin on November 12-16, 2012. They will start at the Marine Science Institute sites at Port Aransas on 11/13/2012 and will tour the Austin campus locations on 11/14-16/2012.

All laboratories using vertebrate animals must be prepared to participate by having knowledgeable representatives available to answer questions about the labs animal-related research and to show the site visitors areas involved with animal housing, procedures, surgery, and euthanasia. Medical records (e.g., surgical monitoring and documentation of analgesic dosing) should also be available. Additional information for lab preparation is provided elsewhere in this newsletter, and scheduling details will be forwarded to faculty when the plans are finalized. For additional questions, please contact the ARC Director.

The site visitors have been provided with a ~140 page written description of the UT animal care and use program and facilities. During their four-day visit they will tour animal housing areas, animal surgery areas, and laboratories where animals are used. As they evaluate the UT program description, inspect the facilities, and interview members of the campus animal care and use community, the site visitors will be trying to answer some of the following questions:

- Is the University in compliance with all federal laws and regulations, and the standards outlined in the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*?
- Does the animal care and use program receive adequate support (authority and funds) from the campus administration?
- Have problems identified during previous site visits or federal inspections been addressed and corrected?
- Is the campus Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) effective?
- Have all animal use projects and procedures being conducted been approved by the IACUC? Is protocol approval current?
- Is everyone who uses or cares for animals properly trained and skilled?
- Is the laboratory animal occupational health and safety program (*HealthPoint Occupational Health Program*) for animal care and use personnel effective?
- Is animal husbandry, veterinary care, animal surgery, and euthanasia performed in accordance

with federal regulations and nationally accepted standards?

- Are the physical facilities (including caging, rooms, buildings, ventilation systems, etc.) designed and maintained in accordance with federal regulations and nationally accepted standards?
- Is the use of hazardous agents in animals conducted with due consideration for the safety of other animals, exposed personnel, and the environment?
- Additionally, the site visitors will pay special attention to animal use projects involving prolonged restraint, food and water restriction, multiple major survival surgeries, and the use of hazardous agents.

If you encounter the site visitors during their rounds, please feel free to welcome them and to respond to their questions in an honest and forthright manner to the best of your knowledge. Remember, they are experienced, knowledgeable peers and you may even have the opportunity to ask them questions about the animal care and use programs at their home institutions or best practices/procedures they have seen in use elsewhere.

In addition to animal-using research personnel, the ARC and the IACUC, the other key institutional representatives expected to participate in the process include representatives from the offices of the Vice President for Research, Environmental Health & Safety, Research Support, and Public Affairs.

To help you prepare for the site visit, please refer to the “Laboratory Self-Evaluation Checklist” on the “Documents, Materials, and Forms” section of the IACUC website, which contains the requirements that should be considered when research groups are preparing for an IACUC semiannual facility evaluation.

The University of Texas at Austin has been AAALAC accredited since 2001. With your cooperation, we anticipate a successful accreditation site visit.

Frequently Asked Questions About AAALAC Accreditation

What is AAALAC International?

AAALAC International (the Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care International) is a private, nonprofit organization that promotes the humane treatment of animals in science through a voluntary accreditation program.

How is AAALAC International governed?

A Board of Trustees governs AAALAC International. The Board consists of 68 prestigious scientific, educational and professional organizations—they are referred to as AAALAC's "Member Organizations." Each of these Member Organizations appoints a representative to serve a three-year term on the AAALAC Board. Examples of current Member Organizations include:

- American Association for the Advancement of Science
- American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy
- American Psychological Society
- Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology
- Society for Neuroscience

How does an institution maintain AAALAC accreditation?

Once accredited, an institution must file an annual report to AAALAC International, noting any changes and the current condition of the animal care and use program. Each accredited institution is revisited and re-evaluated once every three years in order to maintain its accredited status.

How extensive is an AAALAC evaluation?

AAALAC evaluates all aspects of an animal care and use program. An animal program (as defined by AAALAC International) includes an organization's procedures and overall performance in the area of animal care and use in research, education, testing or breeding. The basic components that are evaluated include (but are not limited to) institutional policies, animal husbandry, veterinary care and physical plant issues.

How many animal care and use programs are accredited by AAALAC?

Over 700 animal care and use programs located in 28 countries have earned AAALAC International accreditation. These programs include academic institutions, commercial organizations, government agencies, hospitals, nonprofit organizations, and biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies.

Does AAALAC make its own regulations and policies?

No, AAALAC is not a regulatory body and does not make or enforce regulations. Instead, AAALAC International relies on widely accepted guidelines, such as the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (8th Edition)* (NRC 2011), and other resources. AAALAC International does publish "position statements" that can be used as supplemental guidelines in dealing with certain issues, such as the use of farm animals, occupational health and safety, or adequate veterinary care. AAALAC International also publishes its "Rules of Accreditation," a document that lists the minimum criteria institutions must meet before they can be considered for accreditation.

How does AAALAC ensure confidentiality?

Unlike many government regulatory systems, the entire accreditation process is confidential. The accreditation evaluation and its results are kept between the organization seeking accreditation and AAALAC International—even if deficiencies are found. AAALAC's purpose is to provide a peer-evaluation that results in valuable information organizations can use to improve their programs and achieve new levels of excellence. Board and Council members, ad hoc Consultants and AAALAC staff are all required to sign confidentiality agreements. Each site visitor also signs conflict-of-interest statements. AAALAC representatives agree to treat all materials as privileged, and safeguard the materials in their possession. Of course, accredited organizations are free to share their AAALAC reports if they choose to do so.

For more information, see AAALAC's website at: <http://www.aaalac.org/>

**The University of Texas at Austin
Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee
Triennial AAALAC Site Visit Agenda and Schedule**

Tuesday, November 13, 2012

8:00 – 8:30 AM	Informal Opening Meeting <i>Estuarine Research Center Seminar Room</i>
8:30 – 9:30 AM	Facility Inspection <i>MSI</i>
9:30 – 9:45 AM	Drive to FAML
9:45 – 12:00 PM	Facility Inspection <i>FAML</i>
12:00 – 4:30 PM	Drive to UT Austin Main Campus <i>Program Description questions can be discussed during the drive</i>

Wednesday, November 14, 2012

8:00 – 8:30 AM	Opening Remarks <i>FAC conference room TBD</i>
8:30 – 10:15 AM	Program Description Review <i>FAC conference room TBD</i>
10:30 – 12:30 PM	Facility Inspection – Centrally-Managed Facilities <i>ARC (vivarium and research lab areas)</i>
12:30 – 1:00 PM	Working Lunch <i>ARC Conference Room 2.204</i>
1:00 – 5:00 PM	Facility Inspection – Campus Laboratory Buildings <i>BME, NMS, PAT, PHR, SEA</i>

Thursday, November 15, 2012

8:00 – 10:00 AM	Facility Inspection – Centrally-Managed Facilities <i>NHB (vivarium and research lab areas)</i>
10:00 – 11:30 AM	Facility Inspection – Campus Laboratory Buildings <i>BEL, ECJ, MBB, PAI</i>
12:00 – 1:00 PM	Luncheon with IACUC <i>AT&T Conference Center – Private Rooms 1 & 2</i>
1:00 – 5:00 PM	Facility Inspection – Off-campus Areas <i>DPI (vivarium and research lab areas) BFL, PRC</i>

Friday, November 16, 2012

8:30 – 11:15 AM	Document Review <i>Office of Research Support FAC 426GG</i>
	Make-up Time (Visitors may split up) <i>For anything missed or needing more time to visit</i>
11:30 – 12:30 PM	Luncheon with ARC animal care staff <i>NOA Conference Room 5.318</i>
12:45 – 2:45 PM	Executive Session for Visitors <i>Office of Research Support FAC 426GG</i>
2:45 – 3:30 PM	Exit Briefing <i>FAC conference room TBD</i>