

ANIMAL CARE AND USE UPDATE

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

May 2019
Volume 12,
Issue 1



The next IACUC Full Committee Review (FCR) is Monday, June 3, 2019.

The submission deadline for review is Monday, May 13, 2019.



The University of Texas at Austin receives continued full AAALAC accreditation!

UT Austin hosted three AAALAC representatives from October 22 – October 25, 2018 for a triennial site visit. These representatives reviewed all aspects of UT Austin's animal care and use program, including policies, guidelines, facilities, protocols, and more. Recently after a meeting of the North American AAALAC Council the University of Texas at Austin received the results of the visit. It was determined that the program fully conforms with AAALAC International standards as set forth by the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*, NRC 2011. Therefore, **FULL ACCREDITATION** shall continue! AAALAC commended all who are involved in providing and maintaining a high quality program of laboratory animal care and use.

The AAALAC representatives specifically acknowledged:

- all those involved in the Hurricane Harvey recovery efforts at the Marine Science Institute;
- the excellent veterinary medical and husbandry care, evidenced in part by the appearance of healthy animals;
- the clean and well maintained facilities;
- the engaged Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC), especially the nonaffiliated member;
- the education minded IACUC office staff;
- the provision of financial support and resources by the higher level administration, evidenced in part by the facility upgrades most notably in the aquatics housing spaces;
- the diligent animal resources team, evidenced by the positive interactions with investigative staff and administration of the laboratory assistance program;
- the effective environmental health and safety program, evidenced by investigative staffs knowledge of policies;
- and the comprehensive disaster plans displayed in all satellite facilities.

The IACUC would like to thank all researchers, students, technicians, and support personnel for your hard work preparing for the site visit and for your commitment to animal welfare. It is because of you that we have held continued AAALAC accreditation since 2001. Keep up great work! If you would like additional information about AAALAC or the site visit, please contact IACUC@austin.utexas.edu.

Animal Welfare Assurance

D16-00592
(A4107-01)

USDA Class R Research Facility

Customer ID: **1453**
Certificate:

74-R-0029

AAALAC Accredited Since
October 29, 2001



IACUC Meeting Dates Posted

New meeting dates and deadlines have been posted online. See the [IACUC Dates, Deadlines, and Fees](#) webpage and mark your calendars!

Does Your Animal Work Need IBC Approval?

In addition to IACUC approval, some animal work also requires approval from the Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC). Below are the situations where you need approval from both committees prior to starting work:

1. Use of xenografts (human cells or tissue implanted into animals)
2. Human or other animal cells/ tissues implanted in animals that have been infected, transduced, or transfected prior to or after implantation
3. Use of an infectious agent in an animal
4. Use of nanoparticles may apply if they are used to deliver siRNA, DNA, or viral vector
5. Use of transgenic animals: animals whose DNA has been genetically engineered to: express new/foreign protein, express more or less of an existing protein, not express an existing protein at all, or to express a modified version of an existing protein. This includes knockout and knock in strains, conditional/inducible expression strains, strains developed by gene editing using CRISPR, ZFN, or TALEN, and progeny resulting from cross breeding with a transgenic strain.

Contact ORSC if you have questions about whether or not your project also needs IBC approval.

New and Revised IACUC Guidelines in 2019

The IACUC has recently approved new and revised [guidelines](#) that were written to assist faculty, staff, and students in performing vertebrate animal procedures in a humane manner and complying with pertinent regulatory requirements. Make sure you are up-to-date with the most current versions:

- #6- [Guidelines for Surgical Procedures in Non-Rodent Mammals](#) (REVISED to clarify and provide additional information about post-operative care and recordkeeping; approved March 4, 2019)
- #13- [Guidelines for Tail and Toe Clipping Rodents](#) (REVISED to include toe clipping guidance; approved March 4, 2019)
- #15- [Guidelines for Veterinary Care, Health Checks, and Illness Reporting](#) (REVISED to include reporting for ARC-managed non-centrally located facilities and reporting requirements for anticipated mortality, morbidity, pain, distress or other complications as a result of experimental procedures in addition to or in excess of that described in the approved protocol; approved February 11, 2019)
- #17- [Guidelines for the Social Housing and Environmental Enrichment of Laboratory Rodents and Rabbits](#) (REVISED to include the social housing and environmental enrichment of guinea pigs and rabbits; approved January 7, 2019)
- #21- [Guidelines for the Use of Food or Fluid Restriction](#) (NEW guideline; approved January 7, 2019)

Under some circumstances deviations from these procedures may be indicated but such variances must be approved in advance by the IACUC.



Do You Need to Register Your Collaborative/ Contracted Animal Work with the IACUC?

In some situations, yes! UT Austin IACUC utilizes [Animal Use Registration Forms \(AURF's\)](#) in eProtocol to register collaborative projects and contracted studies where no housing or activities with live animals take place at the University of Texas at Austin. [That work would require an Animal Use Protocol (AUP).] AURF's are needed when 1) the funding of a research project is sponsored by UT Austin or 2) UT Austin affiliated personnel will be working with live animals at another institution. Following registration of the project, UT Austin will then establish a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the collaborating institution to set forth the agreed terms and conditions by which both institutions shall adhere to in the collaboration.

You **DO NOT** need to register with the IACUC via AURF if the research activities fall under the following categories:

- Researcher receives residual tissue samples that are an excess product of a live animal activity
- Researcher receiving deceased animals or animal products that are generated regularly at an animal production facility, and not specifically designed or tailored to the researcher's need. Additionally, the researcher must have no ownership of the animals (e.g. antibodies ordered from a catalog, in stock animal research models not bred for PI's research).
- Researcher conducting fieldwork where animals or the animal's environment is not manipulated.

When submitting a new AURF in eProtocol, you must attach copies of the host institution's IACUC approval letter and approved protocol, as well as any grant application information for federally funded projects. Prior to submission of an annual review for an AURF, the PI should attach the latest approved copy of the host institution's IACUC protocol along with the most recent approval letter from the collaborating performance site.