



# Animal Care Matters

An IACUC and ARF Newsletter

## From the IACUC Administrator

Elizabeth Thames

The ability to use animals in research is a privilege, not a right. This issue has been debated on many fronts. It doesn't matter how you feel on the subject, there are federal laws in place that must be followed. There are several animal rights organizations (ARO) that wait for a researcher to break the law. These organizations go to great lengths to make sure the governing federal agencies know about the non-compliance of researchers. Several cases have been in the news lately. One case involved an animal rights activist being implanted into the University's animal care system. The "plant", wearing large rimmed camera-glasses, was able to take pictures of very sick animals and was able to document inappropriate conversation with investigators, graduate students and other persons working with the animals. Because of the significant amount of documentation, the Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) was contacted and a formal investigation ensued. The formal response letter from OLAW is published on page 3 of this newsletter. The name of the University has been changed. This is not a joke. This is an actual event that took place several months (April 2004) ago. I encourage everyone to read the letter written by OLAW. It details several non-compliance issues. This type of mark on your record is enough to have your NIH funding interrupted. Not only do these actions effect your ability to secure federal grant money but it also hurts the University's ability to receive accreditation, assurance and registration from several agencies. If you have any questions about the welfare of animals please contact the Animal Resources office (777-8106).

## New Amendment Form

In order to make our lives a little easier, a proposal amendment form has been created. The form is posted on the Animal Resources web site along with the Animal Use Proposal and Breeding Colony Proposal form. The rules remain the same: If a signature is required, there must be a hardcopy of the signature page submitted to Animal Resources. AUPs and amendments can be submitted by electronic means but the signature page must be mailed, faxed, or hand delivered to the Animal Resources office before final approval can be given. The email address is [iacuc@gwm.sc.edu](mailto:iacuc@gwm.sc.edu). If you have any questions or problems with the email address please call the Animal Resource office.



Summer  
2004

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### Significant Changes that require an Amendment

1. Change in the objective of the study
2. Change or additions to the species of animal to be used
3. Changes in the approximate number of animals used
4. Proposal to switch from non-survival to survival surgery
5. Changes in the degree of invasiveness of a procedure
6. Changes in the procedure which may change the level of potential discomfort of the animal
7. Change in the PI and/ or Co-PI
8. Changes in anesthetic agent(s), analgesics, and /or methods of euthanasia

First, I would like to say congratulations to Dr. Don Allen on his retirement. I hope he spends more time on the golf course than in that nice rocking chair the School of Medicine presented to him.

I am pleased to be the next IACUC chair. The University is continually expanding its research endeavors and with that aim comes the need to have an IACUC committee. Each of us using animals should consider time on the IACUC as part of our duty. I look forward to working with each of you in the days ahead.

I now ask that you take notice of the letter from OLAW included in this newsletter. Your actions not only effect you but they effect the entire university and research community. If you are having difficulties with surgical techniques, writing an Animal Use Proposal, etc call the Animal Resources office. We have highly trained individuals waiting to help. The IACUC and ARF cannot help if we do not know what the problem entails. Please direct any questions you may have about the OLAW letter to the IACUC Administrator- Elizabeth Thames (777-8564).

Some numbers that might be of some use to you are:

- USC's PHS/NIH Assurance No. A3049-01  
continued accreditation since 1984  
last accreditation November, 5 2003
- USDA Registration No. 56-R-003



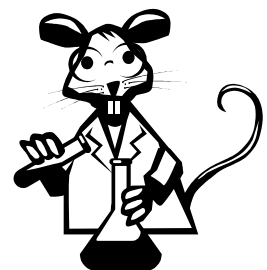
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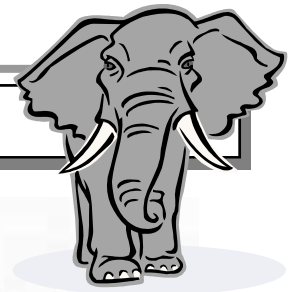
measures to comply fully with the provisions of the PHS Policy and the requirements of the Guide. OLAW acknowledged the actions taken by the UTCB-IT to consider OLAW's concerns about allegations from ARO to correct noncompliances identified during the course of this investigation, and to implement UTCN-IT recommendations for improvements in the animal care and use program. As a consequence, OLAW considers this case to have come to closure.

UTCB-IT= University of U Too Can Be In Trouble

I encourage you to share this newsletter with your lab. Everyone working with animals should be aware of what could happen if they don't comply with federal regulations. I encourage you to share your IACUC approved proposal with all technicians, graduate students and undergraduate students that work in your lab. Please take the time to educate yourself and your students. The future of research

at this University could depend on your actions today.



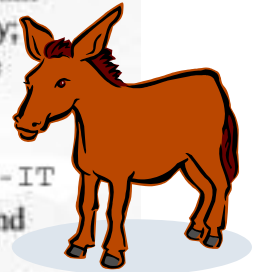


### Summary

UTCBI-IT conducted an investigation of the institutional animal care and use program with particular emphasis on concerns identified by OLAW. Based on the findings of the ACUC and UTCBI-IT management, OLAW concluded that there were instances of noncompliance with the PHS Policy and deviations from the *Guide*. These included failures to: ensure qualifications and training of personnel to conduct certain procedures such as gavage and the collection of blood and other tissues; follow procedures to minimize pain and distress (e.g., retro-orbital blood collection without anesthesia and blanket approval for toe-clipping in rodents 10 days of age or older); document feeding and watering animals on a study involving water restriction; implement timely treatment (e.g., animals with *Proteus* infections, malocclusion, mouse #79033); conduct a semiannual facility inspection in accordance with provisions of the PHS Policy; obtain ACUC approval prior to implementing significant, unauthorized change in an ongoing approved study (e.g., use of death as an end point, adding nicotine as a test agent); report unauthorized animal work (i.e., nicotine administration, observations of seizures/tremors in mice); report serious deviations from provisions of the *Guide* (e.g., deaths from cage flooding and other accidental deaths); and comply with policies requiring confirmation of surgical competency prior to initiating surgery. Additional instances included deviations from the *Guide*-recommended cage sizes for mice resulting in their overcrowding, failures to ensure the deaths of animals following intended euthanasia with CO<sub>2</sub>, and improper positioning of cages on racks (potentially depriving animals of water).

Neither UTCBI-IT nor OLAW was able to sustain allegations that: neonatal rodents were killed inappropriately; inappropriate transfers of animals between investigators occurred; overcrowding of animals was intentional, in an attempt to avoid costs and "hold space;" sick animals were intentionally hidden from DLAM to avoid treating them or having them euthanized. In addition, there was no evidence to support contentions of failures to: exercise appropriate veterinary judgement by not promptly euthanizing a paralyzed rat and a mouse; provide care for certain sentinel animals; handle problems involving a liquid diet in an alcohol study appropriately; handle problems involving mortality in a dopamine study appropriately; and adhere to the provisions of a study involving adrenalectomized rats.

Over the course of the investigation, OLAW provided several recommendations to UTCBI-IT which included: ensuring appropriate supervisory and management oversight of facility and program operations; enhancing record keeping in breeding colonies to improve their effectiveness and efficiency of colony management; improving record keeping in laboratories to keep investigators advised of deliveries, housing and use of animals; reviewing the institutional practice of allowing certain stressful procedures to be conducted in rooms where animals are housed; ensuring that participants on animal-related protocols fully understand them; and bringing any animal losing 10% or more of its body weight to the attention of the veterinary staff.



UTCBI-IT recognized the deficiencies cited in this report and implemented appropriate corrective

## **ANIMAL CARE MATTERS**

### **An IACUC and ARF Newsletter**

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**We're on the Web !!**  
[http://uscm.med.sc.edu/  
ARF/index.htm](http://uscm.med.sc.edu/ARF/index.htm)

**Animal Care Matters** is published four times a year by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) and Animal Resource Facilities (ARF) of the University of South Carolina (USC).

The IACUC is an institutional body appointed by the USC President to oversee the program for the humane care and use of all vertebrate animals used for research, teaching, and training. Any investigator who intends to use laboratory animals must submit an Animal Use Proposal (AUP) to the IACUC for its review and approval.

The ARF provides care and maintenance of all animals used by investigators. Preventive care is provided through vendor animal health evaluations, quarantine programs, and sentinel animal diagnostics. Special care and services can be provided upon request.

Comments and submissions for **Animal Care Matters** are welcome and should be directed to Elizabeth Thames, IACUC Administrator, at 777-8106 or [elthames@gwm.sc.edu](mailto:elthames@gwm.sc.edu).

### **IACUC Meetings 2003-2004**

<b>Meeting Date</b>	<b>AUP Deadline</b>
Jan 8	Dec 22
Feb 5	Jan 26
Mar 4	Feb 23
Apr 1	Mar 22
May 6	Apr 26
Jun 3	May 24
Jul 1	Jun 21
Aug 5	Jul 26
Sep 2	Aug 23
Oct 7	Sep 27
Nov 4	Oct 25
Dec 2	Nov 22

### **IACUC MEMBERSHIP**

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Ken Walsh, Ph.D.

**MEMBERS**  
Robert Beattie, D.V.M.  
Mark Davis, Ph.D.  
Abdul Ghaffar Ph. D  
Charles Mactutus, Ph.D.  
Marjorie Peña, Ph.D.  
Margaret Rentz  
Tyrone Washington  
Marlene Wilson, Ph.D.  
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