TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY CORPUS CHRISTI

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee

Minutes for September 17, 2021

Call to Order

The Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) met on September 17, 2021, via WebEx. Quorum was confirmed and the meeting was called to order on September 17, 2021, at 1 pm with the following members present.

Total Number of Members Present in Voting Capacity: 7 # required for quorum: 5

Meeting Attendance

Meeting Chair:

Chair name	Voting Status	Membership	Affiliation	Scientific	Arrive late	Left Early	WebEx
Felix Omoruyi	Voting	Full	Affiliated	Scientific	N/A	N/A	WebEx

Members Present:

Member name	Voting Status	Membership	Affiliation	Scientific	Arrive late	Left Early	WebEx
Frauke Seemann	Voting	Full, Vice-Chair	Affiliated	Scientific	N/A	N/A	WebEx
Kesley Banks	Voting	Full	Affiliated	Scientific	N/A	N/A	WebEx
Eric Christensen	Voting	Full	Affiliated	Non-Scientific	N/A	N/A	WebEx
Michael Garcia	Voting	Alternate, Coons	Affiliated	Scientific	N/A	N/A	WebEx
Dara Orbach	Voting	Full	Affiliated	Scientific	N/A	N/A	WebEx
Jean Sparks	Voting	Full	Affiliated	Scientific	N/A	N/A	WebEx
Angelica Chapa	Non-Voting	Alternate, Sparks/Omoruyi	Affiliated	Scientific	N/A	N/A	WebEx
Daniel Coffey	Non-Voting	Alternate, Orbach, Banks	Affiliated	Scientific	N/A	N/A	WebEx
Larry Lloyd	Non-Voting	Alternate, Banks	Affiliated	Scientific	N/A	N/A	WebEx
Wei Xu	Non-Voting	Alternate, Seemann	Affiliated	Scientific	N/A	N/A	WebEx

Staff and Guest Present:

Name	Job Title	WebEx
Rebecca Ballard	Director, Research Compliance	WebEx
John Scarpa	IACUC/IBC Coordinator	WebEx
Linda Villarreal	Program Manager	WebEx

I. Conflict of Interest

Members are reminded of their obligation to disclose any conflict of interest related to any of the items on today's agenda. The chair called for any disclosures of conflict of interest. No conflicts were declared.

II. Minutes

Meeting minutes from August 27, 2021, meeting were reviewed. The Chair invited additional comments, questions, and/or concerns. Having none, the motion to approve with stipulations was made, seconded, and carried.

Stipulations include:

1. Typo needs to be correct "pervious" to "previous."

2. Typo needs to be correct "hypoxyia" to "hypoxia."

Vote yes:	7	Recused:	0
Vote no:	0	Excused:	0
Abstain:	0		

III. New business

EHS Report by Michael Garcia: Autoclave update

EHS provided an update on the autoclave issue. They passed the initial inspection when installed. Annual inspection has not occurred since installation (2018). EHS is working with vendors (Travelers and Steris) to get autoclaves inspected. System agreement in place to make a good faith effort. At this point, the system has not said to stop using the autoclaves.

The inspection dates are set for October 19-20, 2021. The autoclaves will need to be powered down on October 18th. Beginning with the three that are in Tidal Hall 203-204. The other two that are in the research areas will be next in line. EHS is trying to get all the autoclaves inspected in a 2-day window. If they are not all inspected at that time, they will be scheduled within two/three weeks.

Autoclaves in the Center for Sciences that are now in Tidal Hall have been grandfathered in but will need registration and inspection. EHS is working on temporary certification and inspections to be done correctly. EHS will provide updates as they are available.

Has a general notification been provided to PIs? Not yet, EHS will send out emails later today to include the inspection dates and alert the PIs of the powering down on the 18th. They will provide updates on the inspection. Autoclaving from the COVID clinic is currently happening. Therefore, taking autoclaves offline is not possible. No indication from the system general or research compliance office to stop using.

I. New Studies

IACUC #:	TAMU-CC-IACUC-2021-09-027
Protocol Title:	ERRG: Transitions in Ecological Response to Rainfall Gradients
Principal Investigator:	James Hogan
Primary Reviewer:	Dara Orbach and Eric Christensen
Conflict of Interest:	none
Species:	Lepomis cyanellus, Herichthys cyanoguttatus, Lepomis macrochirus, Lepomis gulosus, Lepomis auritus, Lepomis megalotis, Lepisosteus oculatus, Micropterus salmoides, Cyprinella lutrensis, Anguilla rostrata
Summary:	Streams and rivers may be particularly susceptible to non-linear responses to changes in precipitation. The dual influence of precipitation on land-water linkages and hydrologic disturbance regime provides two pathways for stream ecosystems to be impacted by changes in precipitation patterns and at risk for catastrophic regime shifts once critical thresholds are crossed. Furthermore, space for time relationship also indicate that precipitation mediated regime shifts in stream ecosystems are likely under future climate change, but we have limited understanding of the mechanistic basis for these changes. Therefore, it is important to understand the processes responsible so that we may predict which regions are at greatest risk under different climate change scenarios and whether management interventions can be performed to prevent these changes. In this proposal, we ask the overarching question: What mechanistic processes are responsible for abrupt, precipitation mediated shifts in diversity and food web structure of lotic ecosystems moving from arid to mesic climate regimes?

Objectives / Specific Questions:
Q1: How does the precipitation regime affect the availability of basal resources in space and time?
Q2: How is precipitation regime related to food web structure and body size distributions across taxonomic groups and trophic levels?
Q3: How is the precipitation regime related to the basis of production across trophic levels?
Q4: Synthesis - Are precipitation mediated changes in primary and secondary production top-down or bottom-up?

CITI: Missing, Groff OHP: Missing, Corbiere and Patrick

Discussion: Electrofishing is indiscriminate. Is this an acceptable method to get specimens? Yes, electrofishing is an acceptable method even if indiscriminate. It is not long lasting. Permits have been approved with electrofishing for use in research even though not permissible for other purposes. The game warden has been notified of use of electrofishing and found acceptable.

Permit was awarded to Chris Patrick, who is no longer at the university. The permit will need to be updated before the July 2022 expiration with Hogan as PI should the study continue past the July 2022 expiration date. For now, Patrick will continue to be part of this project, and they expect the project to end within 6 months before the permit expires.

Need to explain how many they caught last year. 50–100 is a big range. Can they refine the numbers from last year to limit the range? This is a de novo submission. It is an extension of the previous project but looking at it as a new project. This may only be a six-month extension. Study team would like to capture as many fish in this time frame. The numbers are needed to determine how the system responded to the Texas freeze event in February 2021. Despite this informaiton, members still felt last year's numbers should give a better estimate to allow for a refinement of the number of animals needed and clarification needed.

Provide a power analysis to justify animal used. Need to clarify fish per live well. Without knowing the numbers per live well, there could be a concern about oxygen level.

An update was provided on CITI and OHP status. Groff is now up to date as of the meeting. Corbiere and Patrick OHP has been updated and verified. Hogan and Patrick's CITI expire next week and have been alerted of upcoming expirations. Patrick is off-campus and not going to be on campus; therefore, OHP is not required.

The Chair invited additional comments, questions, and/or concerns. Having none, the motion to approve with stipulations with a review period of one year was made, seconded, and carried. Stipulations to be reviewed by Chair/Vice-Chair.

Stipulations include:
1. Please explain how many fish were caught last year.
2. 50 – 100 is a big range. Last year's numbers should give a better estimate to allow for a refinement of the number of animals needed. Can the range of fish be refined based on numbers from last year's numbers to limit the range?
3. Please provide a power analysis needed to justify animal use.
4. Please clarify the number of fish per live well.

Vote yes	7	Recused:	0
Vote no:	0	Excused:	0
Abstain:	0		

II. Semi-Annual Inspection Update

TAMU-CC IACUC Labs

On June 16, 2021, the following IACUC members conducted a remote Semi-Annual Inspection of on-campus animals: Jerry Underbrink (AV), Angelica Chapa, Michelle Costa, Michael Garcia, Larry Lloyd, John Scarpa, Frauke Seemann, and Jean Sparks. The on-campus locations inspected include:

Location – TAMU-CC	Species	IACUC #	PI
Tidal Hall 314M	Fish – Flounder and Seatrout Fish – Flounder and Seatrout	22-18 09-19	Geist
Tidal Hall 114G	Fish – Japanese Medaka Fish – Japanese Medaka Fish – Japanese Medaka Fish – Japanese Medaka Fish – Marine Medaka	03-19 23-19 26-19 2020-10-013 2021-04-009	Seemann
Tidal Hall 114G	Zebrafish	20-18	Xu
NRC 1018	Reptiles – Turtles	2020-09-009	Baxter
Islander Green Team Garden	Fish – Japanese Medaka	23-19	Seemann

A. Corrective Action Update:
ORC has followed up with researchers on the status of the corrective actions requested from the inspections. All the corrective actions have been addressed.

B. Protocol 2020-09-009 (Baxter) NRC 1018 semi-annual inspection follow-up:

On March 12, 2021, IACUC conducted an inspection of NRC 1018 as part of the initial review for Protocol 2020-09-009. Notification of findings was sent on March 18, 2021 to Mr. Baxter and on March 22, 2021.

On June 16, 2021, IACUC conducted a semi-annual inspection.
On July 29, 2021, ORC sent Mr. Baxter an inspection finding notice requesting corrective actions.
On August 20, 2021, ORC emailed Mr. Baxter regarding the inspection finding requested corrective actions.
On August 26, 2021, ORC emailed Mr. Baxter inviting him to the IACUC meeting to address the inspection finding requested corrective actions.
On August 27, 2021, IACUC voted to schedule a follow-up inspection of NRC 1018.

On September 14, 2021, ORC scheduled a follow-up inspection of the lab.
On September 15, 2021, IACUC conducted the follow-up inspection by Garcia, Lloyd, and Scarpa. Members verified corrective actions from the June 16, 2021, was completed. One improvement noticed was Baxter now has a designated area within the shared lab room to maintain animals.

OSHA label requirements: At the June 16, 2021, semi-annual inspection for TH 114G, Dr. Underbrink asked about OSHA label requirements. At the IACUC July 16, 2021, meeting EHS provided an update to the OSHA label requirements. EHS clarified that as long as they are not transferring the materials out of the lab then OSHA labels are not required. If they are moving the items outside of the lab, for example, taking them out to autoclave, then they would need the OSHA label. When working within the lab, items just need to be clearly labeled on the lids and sides.

The June OLAW report was updated to reflect the changes listed above. All the deficiencies have been addressed.

Motion to approve inspection reports and deficiencies tables for March and June, with updates.

Vote yes	7	Recused:	0
Vote no:	0	Excused:	0
Abstain:	0		

III. Other

The next meeting is scheduled for October 8, 2021, from 1 pm to 3 pm.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:33 pm.