

**Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee Meeting  
Minutes**

**1:00pm, Feb 14, 2022  
Remote via Zoom**

**Voting Members Present:** Chair; M-1; NA-2; NS-1; S-1; S-2; S-3; S-4; S-5; S-6; S-7 (left @ 2:09); S-8; S-9; V-1; V-3

**Alternate Members Present:** M-A-2; S-A-2; S-A-5; S-A-6; V-A-1 (left @ 1:15); V-A-3

**Voting Members Absent:** V-2; NA-1

**Visitors Present:** IACUC Specialist 2; Research Quality Assurance Officer; A-1; Operations Manager, RLSS; Assistant Professor, Biomedical Engineering; Research Specialist, Principal, RII

**Meeting was brought to order at 1:02 PM and quorum confirmed with 15 of 17 members present.**

**New Business**

- 2021-0793\* FCR
  - The committee discussed a protocol request involving tauopathy models in ferrets, which was called to Full Committee Review. Of note:
    - The PI and protocol contact attended to answer questions from the committee
    - The committee had concerns as to whether ferrets were an appropriate species for the suggested model, rather than rodents or more widely-used large animal species such as NHP, sheep, or minipigs.
      - PI explained that rodents do not express the same Tau isoforms as humans and often must be genetically modified for use in this type of model calling into question the translational relevance of rodent models of AD and Tauopathy.
      - PI mentioned that the ferret was selected and not larger species because ferret social behavior can be studied in an open cage environment. Also, that larger animal models are not able to fit into the MRI scanner, which is a major component of the model
    - The committee had concerns if the tau injection model was the best model to mimic a naturally occurring disease in humans
      - PI explained that this model would provide specific time points which would not be possible with a transgenic model, such as cognitive decline or vasculature changes.
    - The committee had concerns regarding the requested animal number.
      - PI states that a control group of n=4 is requested with vehicle injection.
      - Committee believes that 2 groups of 2 ferrets would show significance and would authorize a total animal usage number of 4 ferrets for the pilot study.
    - The committee had concerns if staff was properly trained and proficient with stereotaxic injection in ferrets.
      - PI confirmed that staff does not currently have appropriate training in intracerebral injections in ferrets. PI is willing to receive staff training for stereotaxic injection in ferrets specifically.
  - **The IACUC requires modifications to secure approval, final review by FCR:**
    - Limit the animal number to 2 groups of 2 (total of 4 ferrets) to start.
    - Define early removal criteria and endpoints clearly.
    - Receive training for stereotaxic injection in ferrets specifically.
    - Request a report in ~4 months to practice, perform the injection, observe the recovery, and test to see how the pilot study is functioning to determine if the experiment should continue. Report should show why ferrets are preferable over rodents, and consider using historical data from PI's other work to eliminate one control.

**Introductions & Announcements:**

- UAC SOPs & document review –
  - Discussed with committee reviewing UAC documents for programmatic review.

- Will create subcommittee to organize document reviews.
- Website construction
  - AWP website is under construction and may encounter issues.
  - Request that an email be sent to the IAUCC office if a link/webpage does not work.
  - Anticipate rollout by end of March
  - An email will be sent to the listserv once website is completed/updated.

#### **Standing Items:**

- Approve minutes [January]
  - The January 2022 minutes were approved as written.
- Submission Metrics
  - The IACUC AD presented submission metrics. Of note:
    - Submissions were down over the holiday break as expected.
    - 93 total submissions since January meeting, which is back to “normal” levels.
    - Submission trend projections remain normal – in a generally upward trajectory.

#### **Old Business**

- QA member survey results
  - Tabled due to time constraints

#### **New Business**

- 08-101\* FCR
  - The committee discussed an amendment to a primate protocol. Of note:
    - Amendment request to increase age range of juvenile animals for additional measurement.
    - Amendment request to perform blood draws in awake animals.
    - No restraint is listed in protocol because PI plans on using positive reinforcement training methods to perform blood draw.
    - Amendment had undergone vet review, “reviewed, no questions”.
  - **The IACUC approved the following:**
    - Approved as written.

**Meeting was adjourned at 2:25 PM and quorum maintained for the duration.**

\*Indicates USDA species.

Minutes compiled by IACUC Specialist.

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