

University of Washington  
January 27, 2022 IACUC Meeting Minutes

Members Present:

99

Members Absent:

99

*The floor was opened to Public comment at 2:33pm*

**Opening Business**

- The IACUC Chair called the meeting to order at 2:43pm.

**Confirmation of a Quorum and Announcement**

- Quorum was confirmed by 99 ZR.

**Approval of the IACUC Meeting Minutes**

- The IACUC Chair called for the approval of the December 16, 2021 meeting minutes.

Motion was made and seconded: to approve the minutes as written.

Further Discussion: None.

Vote: Approved with 15 members voting in favor, 0 against, and 3 abstentions.

**Animal Program Update – 99**

Hello everyone and welcome.

I am 99 and some of you I have worked with previously and for those that I have not had the chance to meet yet I look forward to working with you. First off, I want to express my gratitude to each and every one of you for your time and dedication serving on the IACUC. This is an important function within the University of Washington and your service is appreciated.

As of January 1, 2022, we have had some modifications to some key personnel that support our animal care and use program. I have assumed the position as the Institution Official with high level oversight for the program. I also have additional responsibilities to expand our outreach

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efforts and further highlight our work that incorporates the 3Rs (refinement, reduction & replacement).

Our previous Attending Veterinarian, 99, retired at the end of 2021. We are extremely grateful to her for the care and oversight she provided to our program. Fortunately, she was able to give us plenty of advanced notice on her planned retirement so that we could ensure that we had a plan in place to provide continuity of leadership and support for our programs. Dr. Brabb is currently serving as the Attending Veterinarian and our strong leadership team in the Office of Animal Welfare has taken on the responsibilities of managing the office.

I would also like to mention that we had our USDA inspection this week and there were no non-compliances identified. Thank you to our animal care staff and OAW for overseeing the process.

Please let us know if you have any questions. You should feel free to reach out to me, the IACUC Chair, the Attending Veterinarian, or the Office of Animal Welfare if you have questions or concerns.

**Attending Veterinarian's Report - 99**

- Out of Range Temperatures: No temperatures were outside the regulatory range, however, there were two HVAC events at Brotman. In the first, a pump broke that caused the boiler to shut down resulting in a loss of heat. The lowest temperature reached was 68 degrees before the pump was restarted.
- Second, the boilers were down from Jan 15-18<sup>th</sup>. Physical plant personnel placed heaters and temperatures stayed within range. The temperatures did rise somewhat (to 74) when the heat was restored briefly. In both incidents, physical plant personnel responded promptly to prevent out of range temperatures.
- Adverse Event: Protocol: 4266-01 An investigator found an unexpected litter of pups in an experimental cage in the BSL3 facility. The investigator separated the pups from the cage by putting them in another cage, finished her examination of the other experimental animals, and then euthanized the pups. She missed one and it was found dead in the separated cage the next day.
- I have spoken to both the investigator and the PI. They will do two things to try to prevent this occurrence. If a male is inadvertently introduced into a cage of females (generally this happens at weaning), then those animals will not be used in experiments until enough time has passed to ensure they are not pregnant, or they will have a qualified person examine the mice for pregnancy. Second, if this happens again, they will euthanize the pups immediately (not transfer them to a different cage) and have a second person examine the cage for any remaining pups.
- **This has been reported to OLAW.**

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- *There were no previous incidents like this from this particular group. The IACUC discussed a letter documenting that this happened and acknowledging their action plan. It would be prudent to address the issue, and it would be consistent with how the IACUC has addressed issues like this in the past. Staff are indeed trained to sex pups in the Animal Use Training classes, but this mistake can happen.*

Motion was made and seconded: to send a letter of counsel to the group to spell out their action plan

Further Discussion: None.

Vote: Approved with 17 members voting in favor, 0 against, 0 abstentions.

- From Arizona - 99
  - Facilities items: None
  - Adverse events: None

**OAW Director's Report** – 99

- Training program updates – The lesson “Finding Flooded Cages with Mice or Rats” is planned to be published in the next few days. Feel free to check out that lesson if you’re interested and let us know if you have any questions.
- IACUC metrics- see meeting documents
- Responses
  - Two updates to report regarding Letters of Counsel that were sent by the IACUC in December.

The first is regarding a series of 2 incidents in which mice were found without food in the hopper. These incidents resulted in the death of 2 adult mice and 2 pups. Corrective actions that were instituted at that time involved re-training of all technicians that worked in those rooms, as well as implementation of a mystery cage in those rooms. If a technician repeatedly misses the mystery cage, then personnel action would be taken. The IACUC voted to send a Letter of Counsel to the Chair of DCM. We received a response to that letter, which is brief so I will read it:

*The IACUC did not propose any additional action at this time*

The second update is regarding an event in which animals in the ABSL3 facility did not receive a daily health check by DCM personnel on one weekend day in December. The IACUC voted to send a Letter of Counsel to the Facility Director. We received a response to that letter, in which they expressed regret for this error and recognized the importance of ensuring the health and welfare of all animals within the



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facility. They also outlined the following actions that will be taken to prevent future occurrence, which I will read from the letter:

*The IACUC did not propose any additional action at this time*

- Protocol Non-compliances
  - **2997-01:** A new faculty member arranged for fish to be shipped and quarantined at UW before he arrived. These fish were imported in September 2021 and placed on protocol 2997-01 during this transition period. From January 11-15, three individuals associated with the new lab (2 postdocs, lab manager), received a facility orientation and began to set up crosses to establish new lines of zebrafish. The individuals set spawning tanks and checked for eggs; no experimental procedures were performed on the zebrafish. These individuals were not approved on the protocol and, though experienced in working with zebrafish, all individuals had not completed the basic training required by UW (UW Animal Use Laws & Regulations, AUMS). At the time of the incident, one individual had completed the basic training, one individual had only completed the Laws & Regulations course, and the third individual had completed neither of the required training elements. Once the PI became aware of the issue, he immediately reached out to the new faculty member and his staff to remedy the situation. This event was self-reported on January 18.

The PI has taken several steps to address this issue:

- (1) The PI clarified with the new faculty member the procedures that must be in place for fish work to occur and is helping the new faculty member with submission of his own protocol.
- (2) An amendment was promptly submitted to add the new researchers to the protocol (as of 1/24, 2 of the 3 individuals have been approved to work on the protocol).
- (3) The PI has clarified with his team how personnel approval is verified. The facility manager will now explicitly confirm that personnel have been approved for animal work before facility training with confirmation from the PI for new personnel. Personnel are not allowed to work with fish without facility training, so this is a reasonable checkpoint to ensure policies are upheld.

**This has been reported to OLAW.**

*IACUC asked where this fell through the cracks and how the new PI missed the rules. The protocol liaison stated that the new PI knew all the rules and didn't follow up to ensure all folks working on the protocol had completed training and been added to the protocol. PI was apologetic. IACUC believes sending a letter could help reinforce the UW rules and how committed we are to compliance, but if it appears PI has learned lesson and already course corrected, a letter that is not harshly worded could be appropriate. Discussed that joint or shared letters to both PIs could be appropriate.*

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Motion was made and seconded: to send a shared letter of counsel to both the senior and new PI

Further Discussion: None.

Vote: Approved with 18 members voting in favor, 0 against, 0 abstentions.

○ **4362-01:** On January 14th, it was self-reported by the group that between the dates of December 17 and December 23, 2021, 12 rats were given a substance that was not approved on their IACUC protocol. The protocol is approved for administration of a steroid, dexamethasone, by IP injection, but a different steroid, methylprednisolone, was instead given by tail vein injection. An additional 18 rats received IV saline as a control. The IV route was also not approved on the IACUC protocol.

The PI and lab manager have met with their OAW liaison. The group self-initiated a plan to train, or retrain, all group members on how to access and review the IACUC protocol in HoverBoard, as well as a process for having the lab manager double-check that experiments are approved before they are initiated. An amendment to the protocol is in pre-review.

**This has been reported to OLAW.**

*This group does not have any prior non-compliances. A letter of reprimand was suggested as routes of administration and the wrong steroid are important, but upon further discussion a letter of counsel was determined to be more appropriate.*

Motion was made and seconded: to send a letter of counsel.

Further Discussion: None.

Vote: Approved with 18 members voting in favor, 0 against, 0 abstentions.

### **Semiannual Report – BE**

- The draft Semiannual report can be found in the documents folder. Members should provide a concurrence, minority view, and/or abstention. This is for July 1 – December 30 period of review and it needs to be sent to the IO by the end of the month.

### **Other Business**

- In person meeting resumption is still to be determined. <sup>99</sup> would like to hear from IACUC members about thoughts and feelings about in person meetings, February and beyond.
- New online site visit trainings. Encouraged all IACUC and Alternate members to review his training before doing site visits.

### **Closing Business:**

The Meeting was brought to a close at 3:20pm.