

University of Washington
June 17, 2021 IACUC Meeting Minutes

Members Present:

99

Members Absent:

99

*Alternate for 99

Opening Business

- The IACUC Chair called the meeting to order at 2:33pm.

Confirmation of a Quorum and Announcement

- Quorum was confirmed by ZR.

Approval of the IACUC Meeting Minutes

- The IACUC Chair called for the approval of the May 20, 2021 meeting minutes.
Motion was made and seconded: to approve the minutes as written.
Further Discussion: *None*.
Vote: Approved with 12 members voting in favor, 0 against and 1 abstentions.

Benefit Story

99 reported the following statement from UW - The University of Washington is committed to developing a high-fidelity simulation model to train Seattle-King County paramedics on a life-saving procedure called a cricothyrotomy, used to establish an airway in critically-ill patients outside the hospital setting.

The Seattle program, one of the first and considered among the top paramedic training programs in this country, has used pigs to train paramedics on this procedure because of the realistic nature of the live tissue model. While other training programs around the county have used various simulation models to train paramedics on this procedure, UW faculty believed that until a more realistic simulator was developed, the animal model was the gold standard for training paramedics in this lifesaving skill.

The UW sought funding during the 2021 Washington state legislative session to develop a more robust simulator to train paramedics. The UW was awarded \$450,000 and such a prototype has been developed and the UW is committed [to] transitioning to this training model.

Attending Veterinarian's/OAW Director's Report - 99

AV/OAW Director's Report to IACUC – June 2021

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- Training program updates – Class size for mouse and rat hands-on classes has been increased to four per session. Appropriate PPE is being used to minimize risk as participants cannot always maintain a 6-foot physical distance at all times.
- IACUC metrics- see meeting documents
- Facility issues: None
- Protocol Monitoring:
 - Nineteen total protocols. Of the protocols, eight involve surgery, one restraint (and sx), 2 tumor modeling, 8 miscellaneous (tape skirt, infection, water quality, prolonged anesthesia). Ten are inactive right now.
- Follow-up on adverse events
 - 4406-01: Follow up to Letter of Counsel – The PI expressed regret regarding the apparent mishandling of mice in their colony. After learning of the incident, the lab conducted an internal audit of the weaning practices and determined that no other such events had occurred in the past. The specific instance of weaning without food was apparently the fault of a single individual who has undergone retraining by completion of on-line AUTS lessons. Lab weaning practices were reviewed and newly weaned mice will receive a scoop of water softened food and gel in 2 gel cups in the bottom of the cage. With this approach, the mice have back-up food during the first few days post-weaning. They will also ensure that a gel/toggle sign is placed on the cage. Finally, the lab implemented a system of saying aloud “gel, food, gel, food” with each weaned cage to be sure nothing is missed.
 - Follow up to DCM Letter of Counsel – DCM suspects the investigator failed to put food in the cage at the time of weaning. Two Animal Technicians (AT) were responsible for checking the cages in this room during that time period. One was in their employment probation period and is no longer working at UW. The other was an experienced technician who has been re-trained by completing the appropriate on-line AUTS courses and an in-person training. DCM is working with UW Human Resources on any personnel actions. In addition, the DCM Chair has met with the ATs in one of the facilities to discuss these incidents and get their feedback on how to avoid them. Suggestions included re-training on how to adjust the lights in the animal rooms, increased awareness of removing cloudy cages, and storing spare cages on racks in a standard orientation. DCM is also investigating the potential of standardizing food scoop size to make it simpler for investigators to determine how much food to put in a cage. DCM takes any error that threatens animal life very seriously, and will continue working with the staff to safeguard research animals.
- Adverse Events: None
- Non-compliance:
 - 4239-01: Conscious echocardiography was being performed on mice but only anesthetized echocardiography was approved on this protocol. The skilled person performing this procedure was added to the protocol but the procedure itself was not

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added. There was no animal welfare issue related to this non-compliance. This procedure is being added to the protocol and that amendment is currently in committee review.

Reported to OLAW

Discussion/Notes: PI acknowledged they had made a mistake, immediately took action with all conscious echo stopped until the procedure is approved on the protocol. Group does not have a history of non-compliance and OAW liaison will be meeting with this lab to go over the protocol and remind the lab to verify what is approved on their protocol.

IACUC did not feel additional action was needed.

- From Arizona
 - No items to report.
 - Adverse events: No adverse events to report.

Standard Operation Procedures / Policies / Guidelines

- Surgical Training Requirements– 99
 - *Purpose: “To define requirements for training and certification in order to perform aseptic surgery on animals at the University of Washington.”*
 - *Discussion: All policies reviewed every 3 years. The policy was reorganized and redundancies were removed. No changes to requirements for surgery training and certifications were made.*

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

Further Discussion: None.

Vote: Approved with 13 members voting in favor, 0 against, 0 abstentions.

- B.1098 Environmental Enrichment for Hamsters
 - *Purpose: A few group here are working with hamsters, and DCM has made some changes to this SOP. Hamsters tend to fight when group housed, so most are single housed. DCM has decided to add enrichment in the form of hay puzzles for singly housed and sunflower seeds (for both group and single housed).*
 - *Discussion: None*

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

Further Discussion: None.

Vote: Approved with 13 members voting in favor, 0 against, 0 abstentions.

- B.1010 Care and Maintenance of Hamsters
 - *Purpose: Due to the triangular shape of hamster’s faces, it is hard for them to use a standard feed hopper so a food receptacle on the cage floor is often used. The hamsters often urinate and defecate in the receptacle, or dump the feed out of it. Thus, DCM has changed their SOP to eliminate food receptacles and just feed them on the floor of the cage. The Animal Welfare Act does say hamsters may be fed on the floor of their cage and the Guide doesn’t specifically discuss floor feeding.*
 - *Discussion: None*

This is informational as husbandry SOPs do not need IACUC approval.

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Other Business

- Semi-annual program review – **BE**
 - For the program review, the IACUC was split into groups and each group looked at specific parts of the program as categorized in the OLAW program review checklist. Each group provided a summary of their discussions and provided their feedback and suggestions for improvement. These will be incorporated into the draft semi-annual report to be reviewed and finalized at the January meeting.
 - The IACUC then looked at the historic trends regarding deficiencies found during facility visits. The committee discussed the trends and reviewed the few deficiencies that are still outstanding. None affect animal welfare.

Closing Business:

The Meeting was brought to a close at 3:37pm. The floor was opened to public comment.