

**UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SCHOOL
INSTITUTIONAL ANIMAL CARE AND USE COMMITTEE**

Minutes from Monday, December 13, 2021

Present: MG (Chair), GD (Member-AV), GP (Member), DH (Member, Non-affiliate), CP (Member), RR (Member, Non-scientist), MR (Member), LS (Member – vet), RZ (Member), EL (Member), JC (Associate Director-Animal Medicine, Alternate) AS (Alternate- Non-scientist),

Non-Members Present: CM (IACUC/IBC Director), VCP (IACUC Coordinator), EN (Sr. Protocol Specialist), DS (Research Compliance Specialist), SC (IACUC Admin), GC (Guest)

Absent: NH (Member), HK (Member), OK (Member), LL (Member), GM (Member), CT (Member), LS (Alternate Member), JM (Alternate Member), LS (Alternate Member), YW (Alternate Member), YXW (Alternate Member)

*This meeting was called to order by the Chair at 3:01 PM
The meeting was adjourned at 4:11 PM*

1. Department of Animal Medicine Operations Update

- a. Cage Sanitation Update-The Department of Animal Medicine requested IACUC approval for an exception to the Guide, related to sanitation schedules for rodent cage lids and wire tops (cage parts). GD discussed a study conducted by Department of Animal Medicine to validate the extended cage parts sanitation schedule by using a validated ATP luminescence technique to monitor sanitation of cage parts at various timepoints. There was no significant difference in luminescence levels between week 2 and the subsequent timepoints evaluated, up to 16 weeks. Additionally, there were no adverse health events reported in animals during the study period. Based on these findings, the IACUC approved the departure to allow for sanitizing cage parts up to every 4 months.

A motion was made to approve the departure for sanitation schedule of cage parts.

Moved, seconded and voted unanimously to approve the departure for sanitation schedule of cage parts.

GD abstained from the vote.

2. Protocols for Review

- a. Surgeon addition (PROTO202000055, PROTO201900302, PROTO202000045, PROTO201900301)

A motion was made to approve the surgeon addition on PROTO202000055, PROTO201900302, PROTO202000045, and PROTO201900301.

Moved, seconded, and voted unanimously to approve the surgeon addition on PROTO202000055, PROTO201900302, PROTO202000045, and PROTO201900301.

3. Announcements and Discussion

a. Program Review Report

The semi-annual program review was conducted by a subcommittee of the IACUC on November 8, 2021, and the program review report was presented to the IACUC. The sub-committee reviewed the checklist provided by OLAW and DoD. No deficiencies were identified during the program review and all items discussed were for improvement. The IACUC Office director discussed specific items in the report that were evaluated by the subcommittee, including PAM findings, cage density evaluations, disaster plan, departures from the Guide, and changes to inspection schedules in response to the 21st Century Cures Act in which OLAW and USDA have clarified existing flexibilities for conducting semiannual facility inspections while maintaining protection for research animals and data integrity.

The IACUC had no additional concerns and agreed to adopt the program review report which will be provided as part of the semi-annual report to the IO.

A motion was made to adopt the subcommittee report for submission to the IO. Moved, seconded, and voted unanimously to adopt the subcommittee report for submission to the IO.

b. USDA Contingency Plan-effective January 3, 2022

CM (Director IACUC) notified the IACUC that the issued a final rule for amending the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) regulations to implement a requirement for contingency plans for the handling of animals during emergencies. The IACUC discussed specific changes related to personnel training requirements and timeframes, annual requirement for review of disaster plans, recommended format for plan, and the implementation periods.

MG (Chair) recommended having a sub-committee review the plan and CM (Director) suggested having an outline in January and a sub-committee to review the plan in February. GD (AV, Member) will work with the IACUC office to put together the plan.

- c. EN (Sr. Protocol Specialist) reminded the committee that semi-annual inspection reports are due by December 17, 2021, for facility inspections and January 7, 2022, for laboratory inspections.

4. Protocol Violations & Adverse Events

a. PROTO202000106

An adverse event was submitted on 12/1/2021, involving 1 mouse (out of 16) found without a wound clip one day after surgery. Animal Medicine immediately euthanized the animal to avoid unalleviated pain/distress and contacted the PI. The surgeon successfully completed the procedure on multiple animals, however

as a corrective action, the PI proposed to retrain the surgeon on proper surgical staple placement and increase post-operative monitoring of mice for a period of time to ensure adequate training. Additionally, the lab is currently under PAM audit and the audit should include the following:

- The lab needs to update the cage cards with all surgical dates and note the use of staples
- Remind the lab that it is imperative that they respond to animal health reports
- Evaluate the number of health reports, and type of report for compliance with humane endpoints
- Evaluate the frequency of monitoring conducted by research staff

After discussing the incident and the corrective actions, including the PAM audit, the IACUC determined that this was an isolated incident which will be prevented with the corrective actions.

A motion was made to continue the PAM audit.

Moved, seconded, and voted unanimously to continue the PAM audit.

b. PROTO202000182

An adverse event was submitted where 8 mice did not survive after facial vein injections of rAAV expressing FOXG1. The injections were performed by an experienced researcher and the procedure has been successfully completed prior to this experiment. Additionally, other mice received the rAAV injections through a different route of administration and no adverse effects were seen. The lab attributed the outcome to an overexpression or off-target expression of FOXG1 and proposed using different neuron-specific promoters to drive FOXG1 expression.

After discussion, the IACUC determined that additional information is needed to determine if the promoter used for the facial vein injection was different than the promoter used during other the successful injections. Additionally, the IACUC requested that the lab report the outcome to the committee after repeating the procedure with the alternative promoter.

The vote was tabled until the IACUC receives additional information.

c. Subaward adverse event

CM provided an update on an unanticipated adverse event that occurred at a different institution under a sub-award; no non-compliance was noted. The collaborating institution reported the event to OLAW and to UMCMS. The IACUC determined the response of the collaborating institution to be in adherence with the associated MOU but requested that the event be reported to the UMCMS Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP).

5. Consent Agenda

a. Policy 1.07 Fish Tank Density

This policy had minor changes which were reviewed by the IACUC and there were no questions or concerns.

A motion was made to approve Policy 1.07: Fish Tank Density.

Moved, seconded, and voted unanimously to approve Policy 1.07: Fish Tank Density.

b. Policy 1.04 Rodent Breeding Overcrowding

Changes were made to the policy for continuous breeding schemes to add that the veterinary staff should be consulted if a second litter is dropped before the first litter reaches 21 days. The veterinary staff will determine if the first litter should remain with the dam or weaned before 21 days.

A motion was made to approve Policy 1.04: Rodent Breeding Overcrowding.

Moved, seconded, and voted unanimously to approve Policy 1.04: Rodent Breeding Overcrowding.

c. Policy 3.08: Oral Antibiotics

This policy is currently under review by the veterinary staff and therefore was tabled until the veterinary staff can finalize review.

A motion was made to table the policy on Oral Antibiotics until veterinary staff can report.

Moved, seconded, and voted unanimously to table the policy on Oral Antibiotics until veterinary staff can report.

d. Policy 7.06 Counting and Reporting Animals

This policy is currently under review by the IACUC Office staff and therefore was tabled until the draft can be reviewed by the veterinary staff, upon completion by the Office.

A motion was made to table Policy 7.06 Counting and Reporting Animals until completion of veterinary review.

Moved, seconded, and voted unanimously to table Policy 7.06 Counting and Reporting Animals until completion of veterinary review.

6. **Educational Material:** 12/9/2021 OLAW webinar was provided before the meeting and discussed by the IACUC Office director. Best Practices for Conducting a Search for Alternatives and Finding Animal Model/Model Organism Information

https://olaw.nih.gov/sites/default/files/Slides%2012_09_2021.pdf

7. The list of protocols approved by DMR from November 11, 2021 to December 10, 2021 was referenced.

8. The November meeting minutes were sent to the IACUC for review prior to the meeting. A request was made to verify that all votes had been unanimous. This has been verified and there were no other concerns.

A motion was made to approve the November 15, 2021 IACUC meeting minutes.

Moved, seconded, and voted unanimously to approve the November 15, 2021 IACUC meeting minutes.

