OFFICE OF ANIMAL CARE AND USE (OACU)
INFORMATIONAL MEMO

July 2008

In order to provide better service to our Principal Investigators, research staff, and administrative managers, the Office of Animal Care and Use (OACU) has compiled this informational memo. Please feel free to call the OACU staff if you have any questions about any items in this memo.

AAALAC Site Visit
UNC Chapel Hill hosted an Association for the Assessment and Accreditation for Laboratory Animal Care, International (AAALAC) site visit on June 16 - 19, 2008. Thank you to everyone who prepared for and participated in the site visit. The exit briefing was favorable. However, the definitive response will arrive by letter from AAALAC Council sometime this September.

Site visitors did have several suggestions which OACU and DLAM personnel are working to remedy. Some suggestions were the following: IACUC re-review of satellite facility (investigator maintained animal housing facilities) approval and compliance of satellite facilities with Guide standards; evaluation of practices for scavenging waste anesthetic gases; examination of affects on research of interruptions in the dark cycle of fixed light cycles; evaluation of storage of controlled substances; and review of audit practices of controlled substance use in research.

Administrative Issues

Amendments
Please plan carefully when completing your Animal Care Applications (ACAP). Be sure to include all potential techniques you will utilize in order to avoid submitting numerous amendments later. The purpose of amendments is to allow investigators the opportunity to request changes or minor additions to the application that may have not been initially anticipated. Amendments are not to be utilized as a convenient way to add information to a poorly designed
application. Good application design results in decreased time and effort for both the IACUC and the investigator.

If you must add new procedures, agents, or personnel after approval of your application, be certain to describe the new information in an amendment and submit it online for IACUC review. Do not initiate new practices until your amendment is approved. Please review your current application at the time of its annual review to ascertain that all necessary information is contained in the application.

In June the IACUC has reported to the federal regulatory agency, OLAW, two incidents of non-compliance with approved protocols. **Only perform procedures described in your approved application.**

**Training Issues**

**Monday Afternoon Training**
In addition to the scheduled mouse, rat, and aseptic technique classes, the Molecular Biology Building (Glaxo) OACU training space is open for one-on-one training every Monday from 1:00 – 4:00 PM. We encourage research personnel who handle animals to make use of this service. Please contact Training and Compliance at 966-5569 to schedule appointments.

OACU welcomes Connie Engle to our Training and Compliance Team. Connie comes to us most recently from NCSU-College of Veterinary Medicine, but she spent over 17 years previously working at UNC as a research laboratory manager and DLAM employee.

**Other**

**Grant Comparison**
The Office of Animal Care and Use is pleased to announce the recent addition of Michelle Denning to our administrative group. Michelle comes to us from Duke University where she spent nine years managing the IACUC office. Michelle will be responsible for managing the administrative unit of OACU. She has also been hired to develop and implement a system for assessing congruency between grant applications and ACAP.

As you know, all animal work described in a grant proposal that receives an award must also be described in an IACUC approved ACAP. NIH expects research institutions to insure that this congruency exists. IACUC approved animal use applications may cover more procedures than described in the grant proposal. However, all procedures, animal species, drugs, routes of administration, etc. described in funded proposals must be IACUC-approved. Lack of congruency between the funded grant and the ACAP may result in serious consequences for the institution and possible retraction of NIH funding.

The IACUC asks that each investigator conduct their own side-by-side comparison of grants and animal use applications in an effort to keep UNC-Chapel Hill in compliance with federal
regulations. Please work with Michelle as she endeavors to develop a system of grant and application comparison at UNC-Chapel Hill.

Network of Laboratory Animal Coordinator (NLAC)
The NLAC Steering Committee encourages Principal Investigators to allow their laboratory personnel to participate as members of the NLAC steering committee and to attend quarterly NLAC seminars. NLAC is an excellent resource for individuals who use animals in research. NLAC’s goal is to enhance communication between animal research laboratory personnel, IACUC, and DLAM. NLAC activities support the University’s mission to expand knowledge and teach individuals involved in all levels of animal research by providing a forum for the open exchange of ideas and an information network for policies, procedures, and regulations.

Join the NLAC Listserve. This is an avenue for laboratory animal coordinators to make contacts, exchange ideas, ask questions, and make suggestions. To subscribe to the NLAC listserve, compose an email message in text format to listserv@unc.edu. Leave the subject field blank and type "subscribe nlac" in the body of the message. Be sure to erase any signature text that you have in your message.