OFFICE OF ANIMAL CARE AND USE (OACU)
INFORMATIONAL MEMO
December 2011

In order to provide better service to our Principal Investigators (PI), 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.

ACAP ADMINISTRATION

AAALAC Accreditation

UNC-CH hosted a site visit by the Association for the Assessment and Accreditation for Laboratory Animal Care (AAALAC), International earlier this summer. The purpose of the site visit was to assess UNC-CH’s animal care and use program and to determine whether UNC-CH would retain its long standing AAALAC accreditation. Accreditation shows that an institution is serious about setting, achieving and maintaining high standards for animal care and use and is committed to animal welfare in science. AAALAC International offers the only international accreditation for animal care and use programs, and it has become recognized around the world as a sign of quality and good science.

We are pleased to inform you that AAALAC has granted continued full accreditation to the UNC-CH animal care and use program. We thank each of you for your hard work in preparing for the site visit and in continuing to provide quality animal care each day in your laboratories and in the animal facilities.

New Investigators and Research Personnel

OACU personnel are available to assist you and to answer questions about the application and amendment submission, review, approval, and renewal process. You may also consult with OACU personnel regarding preparation of your Animal Care Application (ACAP). Please do not hesitate to contact the office at 966-5569 if you have any application related questions. We will direct you to the correct individual if our office is unable to answer your questions.
ACAP Items

OACU staff is continuing to work with ACAP programmers to make improvements to ACAP and to address many of the issues research personnel have raised over the past three years. Please continue to inform us of issues you have with the content of ACAP and we will implement changes as soon as we have the capability. We will continue to keep you informed of any changes being made to ACAP via informational memos.

Roles and Techniques

In order to simplify the Personnel section of the protocol form in ACAP, many of the personnel roles and techniques have either been removed from ACAP or have been combined into one role or technique. For instance, in the past, any individuals using aseptic technique for survival surgery were required to select on his/her personnel profile the techniques of “Aseptic Technique”, “Incision Site Prep”, “Instrument Prep”, and “Scrubbing and Gloving.” Now, the only technique required for the personnel profile is “Aseptic Technique.”

If you were previously trained and certified in any of these techniques, you will receive credit for completion of the new combined technique in the Registration system.

If you feel that you need additional training in any of the techniques, please contact Rene Cutting or Emily Hearne in the Office of Animal Care and Use to arrange for one on one training time with a Training and Compliance Coordinator or sign up for one of the hands on classes available in Mouse or Rat Handling.

OACU staff anticipates that this change will greatly reduce confusion regarding the Personnel section of the protocol and ultimately, expedite approval of IACUC protocols.

If you have any questions or comments regarding the new personnel roles and techniques, please do not hesitate to contact Michelle Denning (michelle.denning@unc.edu) or Rene Cutting (rcutting@unc.edu) in the Office of Animal Care and Use (OACU).

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