The AAALAC Site Visit

What to expect
UNC-CH will host an AAALACi site visit May 30 – June 2, 2017

- 4-member site visit team
- Evaluating UNC-CH animal care program for 4 days
- Lead AAALACi Council Member – Dr. Chris King
- Other members of team: Drs. John Norton, Valerie Bergdall, Mary Robinson
The AAALAC Site Visit

- So why are we accredited, anyway?
- Isn’t it a lot of work to do every three years?
● Demonstrates the University’s commitment to a quality animal research program
● Provides a peer review (every 3 years)
● Places the University in good standing with NIH and other granting agencies
● Helps improve our program
● Voluntary
AAALAC International Accreditation

- The UNC-CH School of Medicine animal program was accredited in 1973

- The remaining campus animal program merged with the SOM and the entire UNC-CH program was accredited in 1990
What Are The Site Visitors Looking For?

- A site visit evaluates:
  - Institutional commitment (resources)
  - IACUC function
  - Husbandry programs
  - Veterinary care programs
  - Occupational health and safety programs
  - Record keeping
  - Facilities (DLAM and PI Satellites)
  - PI laboratories where animals are taken
What Standards Are Used to Evaluate?

- The “Guide”
What Do Site Visitors Do While They Are Here?

- They reviewed the UNC-CH “Program Description” before arriving
- Meet with IO, IACUC, OACU, DLAM, EHS, Researchers
- Tour all animal facilities and satellites
- Tour many laboratories where animals are used
- Evaluate supporting documentation of program operation (i.e. records)
What Should I Do To Prepare?

- Continue normal laboratory activities
- Review current protocols with amendments
- Contact OACU or DLAM with questions
- Be prepared to answer the following questions CORRECTLY
Likely Questions

- Describe the animal procedures conducted in the lab.
- Are the animal procedures performed in the lab described in the approved protocol?
- Has everyone in the lab read the protocol and amendments?
- What kinds of training did you receive regarding the animal procedures you’re conducting (by the PI, IACUC/OACU, DLAM)?
Likely Questions

● Survival Surgery

  – Is the area dedicated during surgical procedure, free of clutter, and sanitizable?

  – Describe aseptic technique (animal prep, surgeon prep, instrument prep – sterile gloves, surgical area prep)
Likely Questions

- **Survival Surgery**
  - Analgesic agents?
    - in date & pharmaceutical grade
    - administration schedule & records documenting use
    - administered according to frequency in protocol
  - Post-operative monitoring
    - animals monitored until awake
    - records documenting monitoring according to approved protocol
Likely Questions

- Surgery – survival and non-survival

  - Are surgery records kept & available for review?
  - Anesthetic agents (in date, pharmaceutical grade, records)?
  - Anesthetic machine (on maintenance program, how is waste gas scavenged, F/Air canisters weighed, high pressure tanks secured)
Likely Questions

- Controlled substances
  - Secured
  - Logs of usage, running balance

- Non-pharmaceutical grade agents
  - Justified and approved in protocol
  - Prepared properly
Likely Questions

- What do you do if you notice a sick animal?
- Do you know how to contact your veterinary technicians and veterinarians?
- Do you have current emergency contact information available in the animal room so that you can be contacted 24/7?
Likely Questions

- **Humane endpoints**
  - What are they?
  - Are they indicated in the approved protocol?
  - Are animals monitored and euthanized according to protocol?
Likely Questions

- **Euthanasia**
  - How are animals euthanatized?
  - Guillotine - how often is it sharpened?
  - CO2 - how do you ensure death?
  - How is CO2 administered? How is a set flow rate ensured? Has the rate been calculated using the chamber dimensions?
  - How are animal carcasses disposed?
Likely Questions

• What is the maximum length of time an animal stays in the lab?
• Is anyone in the lab allergic to animals?
• What does one do if they believe they have an animal allergy?
• Is everyone in the lab who comes in contact with animals enrolled in the occupational health program?
Likely Questions

- Animal Transport
  - How are animals transported to the lab?
  - Are animals transported through common corridors/elevators?
  - Are cages covered?
  - Are private vehicles used? If so, have you read and do you abide by the IACUC Animal Transport Policy?
Likely Questions

- Animal Concerns
  - If one had an animal use concern, how would it be reported and to whom?
  - Is there an anonymous method of reporting concerns?
  - Does the university have whistleblower protection for people who report animal concerns?
  - [http://research.unc.edu/iacuc/policies-procedures/reporting-animal-welfare-concerns-or-noncompliance/](http://research.unc.edu/iacuc/policies-procedures/reporting-animal-welfare-concerns-or-noncompliance/)
Likely Questions

**Satellite Facilities** (PI-maintained housing)
- Is the use of a satellite justified?
- Are animals observed and provided husbandry care daily?
- Are husbandry records kept/available for review?
- Are DLAM veterinarians contacted if animals exhibit sickness or disease?
- Are DLAM vets notified before receiving animal shipments?
- Are SOPs in place for cleaning facility/equipment?
- Is there a disaster plan on file and have caretakers read it?
Likely Questions

Only address questions about issues for which you are responsible!

● It’s ok to say:
  – “I’m not the person who performs that surgery, procedure, euthanasia, monitoring….etc.”
  
  – “I don’t know the answer to that, but I’ll get back to you before the visit is over.”
At the end.....

- Exit briefing
- Site visitors’ assessment
  - Suggestions for improvement
  - Mandatory items
- Institutional written response within 10 business days
- Council deliberation
Outcomes

- Continued full accreditation
- Conditional accreditation
- Deferred accreditation
- Probation
- Revoke