Members Present:  T. Brabb  J. Clark  M. Lucas
A. Burich  S. Cunningham  M. Newman
M. Byers  D. Fitts  J. Stoloff
C. Carrier  C. Goodwin  J. Sullivan
E. Clark  C. Hotchkiss

Members Absent:  S. Brockerhoff  P. Lang  J. Muster
C. Grue  A. Leache  R. Murnane
L. Kinman  G. McLean

Opening Business:

Dr. Cunningham called the meeting to order at 2:31 pm.

Approval of the October 17, 2013 IACUC Meeting Minutes

Dr. Cunningham called for a review of the October 17, 2013 Meeting Minutes.

Motion: Dr. Burich moved to approve the minutes. Dr. Sullivan seconded the motion.

Discussion: None

Vote on the Motion: The minutes were approved with 12 members voting in favor and 2 members abstaining.

Attending Veterinarians Report:

Facility Issues:

Dr. Brabb reported that there were a few rooms with low humidity in the last month, but no clinical signs had been associated with this event.

Adverse Events:

Dr. Brabb reported on the death of a zebra finch that was involved in a research project that uses finches to study learning and memory. The finches are housed in a bank of cages with a tray that slides in at the bottom of the cage and contains paper that collects the droppings. The trays are pulled out daily and the paper changed. In this new caging system, there is a ¾ inch drop below the tray to the top of the cage below and a zebra finch can fly into this space when the tray is pulled out to remove the paper. Because the lip on the tray is 1.5 inches high, it can be difficult to impossible to see the bird behind the tray when the tray is being pushed back in place. Dr. Brabb reported that on October 29, 2013, one juvenile finch was found dead and it was presumed, because of its position, that it had flown into that space behind the tray and was killed when the tray was put back.

Following the event the caretakers were counseled to watch the birds very closely when the tray is returned and make sure all birds can be visualized at all times. In addition, the Department of
Comparative Medicine is working with the group to redesign the cages to attain better visualization. This event was reported to OLAW.

**Discussion:** The Committee discussed possible cage modifications to allow for better visibility and to prevent access to the space behind the tray.

The Committee discussed sending the group a letter of counsel but decided that in this case it was not warranted. The Committee requested that Dr. Brabb provide an update when possible regarding the cage modifications or other solutions that are implemented to solve the problem.

**Veterinary Protocol Monitoring:**

There are currently 14 active protocols on veterinary monitoring, seven of those involve surgery or anesthesia and seven involve other procedures.

4275-01: Dr. Brabb explained that this protocol was put on monitoring during the review process in August of 2011. The goals of this project are to develop a tissue engineered neo-trachea that is vascularized, mechanically sound, and to develop a methodology to line the inside of the neo-trachea with an epithelium to minimize fibrosis. All of these studies rely on fabrication of cartilage sheets obtained from chondrocytes harvested from rabbit ear and the implantation of these autologous cells back into the same rabbit. For the past two years the research has been progressing well with the creation of these neotrachea inserts. They have recently implanted “neotracheas” in 4 rabbits, where part of the trachea is actually removed and a plastic T tube is inserted into the trachea, similar to how this is done in humans, and then the construct is put around the T tube. Two rabbits have reached their endpoint, but one rabbit died acutely when the T tube became dislodged. The investigator is going to try to use stay sutures to help hold the T tubes in place. In humans, they have shown that the “T” part of the tube is more effective in holding these tubes in place than sutures, but the anatomy of the rabbits is slightly different and the sutures should help. The other rabbit is still doing fine and is not yet at its endpoint.

**Follow-up on cages found without food:**

Dr. Brabb reminded the IACUC that at a previous meeting, she agreed to collect some data to address the Committee’s question of how frequently cages are found without food. In a sample three-month period there were 3 cages found and in all cases the animals were fine indicating that they had not gone long without food or water, probably less than 24 hours. That makes an estimate of about 12 cages a year. Dr. Sullivan asked if the data was collected in centralized facilities and Dr. Brabb confirmed that it was. Dr. Brabb commented that it is a rare occurrence considering how many cages there are.

**OAW Director’s Report**

**Report on Packets Sent:**

Since the last report at the October 17, 2013 meeting 2 packets and 3 e-mailed items had been sent to the IACUC. There were 2 new protocols. There were 24 renewals, of which 7 were three-year renewals requiring a complete Project Review Form. There were 17 annual renewals. There were also 42 Significant and Minor Changes. The IACUC has completed its approval process for many of these items, though some are awaiting final approval due to holds for items such as EH&S approval, OH review or signatures, or revisions from PIs.
Post Approval Monitoring:

During the month of October 45 meetings occurred and of those meetings there was 98% compliance. These meetings resulted in approximately 22 changes to protocols.

Reply from Researcher Regarding Non-compliance Previously Reported:

• At the October 17, 2013 IACUC meeting, the Committee was informed that on September 26, 2013, ten nude mice had laparotomies performed to inject tumor cells into the liver. On September 27, 2013, one of the mice was observed to have a 1-2 cm segment of suture protruding from the skin adjacent to the incision site. While this mouse was being examined to evaluate the loose tag of suture, the wound dehisced to the level of the abdominal cavity and had to be euthanized.

The post-mortem examination of the surgical site indicated that the body wall and the skin had been closed in a single layer with a continuous suture pattern. A break in the suture had then led to failure of the entire suture line. It was confirmed by members of the lab that the animal had been closed with a single layer of suture due to a low supply of suture material, which was an exception to their normal practice of two-layer closure.

The Committee voted to send letter of counsel to the PI and the surgeon involved and requested a reply regarding actions that were taken to prevent a reoccurrence of this situation. The Committee also requested that as part of their corrective action, they modify their pre-surgery SOP to indicate that prior to surgery they will ensure that they have all the supplies that they need to perform the surgery. In addition, the Committee reminded them to contact Veterinary Services and coordinate with a veterinarian so that they can observe the procedure next time it is performed by the surgeon. The group replied as requested.

• At the July 18, 2013 IACUC meeting, the Committee was informed that on July 13, 2013, 2 mice were found dead by a K-wing technician while dumping dirty cages of two Thoren housing racks. On June 21, 2013, the racks of cages had been transported from the K-wing to the SLU3.1 facility. Immediately upon arrival at SLU-3.1 the mice were transferred from these racks into new cages that were compatible with that facility. That same day, the incompatible Thoren racks were returned to the K-wing for cleaning, but were not processed until July 13, 2013 due to mechanical problems with the washroom.

While not known for certain, it is suspected that the mice were overlooked by the animal technicians at the SLU 3.1 facility during the cage transfer and subsequently died of dehydration since the racks were not hooked up to water after having been returned to the K-wing washroom.

The Committee voted to send a letter of counsel and request a reply regarding actions that have been taken in response to the situation. The group replied that the technicians involved in the incident have been individually counseled by the facility manger regarding the importance of approaching each task involving live animals with extreme care and that the animals are the number one priority. Reports have been placed in their personnel files.

The SOP for moving animals to different facilities has been modified to add additional safeguards to the procedure to prevent animals from accidentally being overlooked during the
transfer. The changes include the following:

1. When moving animals on their own racks to a different facility via the DCM box truck:

2. They are increasing the checking of the racks to ensure that no animals have been left behind. They will have an extra person go through and check each cage on the rack. This will be documented with a card system.

3. Two cards will be placed on the rack being moved in order to increase awareness of each cage.

4. One card will have the name of the person and the date when the cages were changed on the rack, after they have arrived at the receiving animal facility (i.e., ‘Changed By’)

5. The second card will have the name of the person and the date of when that individual checked the dirty cages on the rack going back to its original facility to be sure that all animals have been removed from all cages (i.e., ‘Inspected By’)

6. Once the rack has been returned to the original facility, the rack will be inspected again to insure that no animals have been left on the rack and that person will also sign the ‘Inspected by’ card with the date.

Alternatively, animals may be changed into new cages and racks before leaving the facility of origin. In this case, cages are not left on the old rack, reducing the risk of overlooking an animal as the empty cage is taken apart for cleaning.

**Change of process for CTC review**

Dr. Thompson-Iritani discussed the CTC process with the Committee. One item that needed to be clarified was that the IACUC members should use the top box in Catalyst for comments, rather than entering them into the discussion portion of the page so that they are not sent to the researchers as questions.

The second item that was discussed was a process to better distribute and document protocol reviews done by members of the IACUC outside the OAW. One suggestion involved assigning Committee members to a specific number of protocols to review. The number would be discussed and decided upon as a group and would vary depending on members other responsibilities. The goal is to spread the responsibility across the membership and to better capture the reviewing efforts of those outside the OAW. Members could select protocols based on area of interest, for example. Dr. Thompson-Iritani stressed that members should not feel pressure to review every section of the protocol, but should focus reviews on areas where they feel they can add value. Committee members should be sure to document their review, even if they don’t have any questions by indicating “no comment”.

Dr. Thompson-Iritani suggested that a survey would be sent to the IACUC to solicit suggestions from IACUC members for how this could be accomplished.

The Committee discussed the practicality of these changes and it was determined that the additional documentation of IACUC member reviews could begin with the next CTC and other changes could be determined after review of the survey results.
Protocol Review:

- Dr. Robinson, “Role of Cerebellar Nuclei in Eye Movement Control and Adaptation” IACUC #2340-01 Animal A09044

Dr. Newman summarized the exemption request and also summarized the regulations applicable to the approval of Dr. Robinson’s USDA exemption request.

Specifically, animal #A09044 had been previously approved for a USDA exemption which expired in July 2012. Initially, it was thought that no more major surgeries would be required for this animal so the USDA exemption was not renewed. Since that time, the PI has begun collaboration with another research group studying color vision. This monkey has been deemed an ideal candidate for these new studies. As part of this exemption, the PI is asking for 5 survival surgeries:
  1 surgery to implant a coil in a naïve eye
  2 eye coil repair surgeries
  2 lug repair surgeries

This request will require a USDA Exemption Request and as part of this request the PI is must list all surgeries that they may perform on this animal. However, the PI understands that he will be following the UW Neuroscience Policy in order to request approval for repair surgeries.

Dr. Newman reviewed the animal’s surgical history for the Committee.

Motion: Dr. Newman moved to approve the significant change. Dr. Byers seconded the motion.

Discussion: The Committee discussed the process for reviewing and approving future repair surgeries.

Vote on the Motion: The Significant Change was approved unanimously with 14 members voting in favor.

- Dr. Pasupathy, “Neural Basis of Visual Shape Representation and Recognition” IACUC #4133-01, Version #33

Dr. Newman summarized the goals and importance of the group’s research and explained that the Significant Change is for one surgical repair.

Dr. Newman summarized the animal’s surgical history for the Committee.

Motion: Dr. Newman moved to approve the Significant Change. Dr. E. Clark seconded the motion.

Discussion: Dr. J. Clark asked how long the monkey would be part of the study and commented that it seemed to him that the monkey had a lot of injuries that are not reflected in the surgical table. Dr. Hotchkiss explained that the animal does have a hand injury and while
she does not like to use her hand, Dr. Hotchkiss did not believe that the injury was painful to the animal at this point and the animal is working well for the project.

Vote on the Motion: The Significant Change was approved with 11 members voting in favor and 3 members opposed.

Standard Operating Procedures, Policies and Guidelines:

• **Species Specific Training Policy**

  Dr. Brabb summarized the changes that were made to the policy.

  Dr. Sullivan suggested the inclusion of the word “vertebrate” for clarity and Dr. Brabb agreed.

  **Motion:** Dr. Brabb moved to approve the policy as modified with the word “vertebrate” added. Dr. E. Clark seconded the motion.

  **Discussion:** Dr. Newman asked Dr. Brabb if she thought that people who needed to complete the training requirements for rodent users had been brought into compliance since the implementation of the policy. Dr. Brabb felt that they had.

  **Vote on the Motion:** The policy was approved unanimously with 14 members voting in favor.

• **WaNPRC Environmental Enhancement Plan to Promote Psychological Well-Being of Nonhuman Primates**

  Dr. Hotchkiss explained that plan had been in place for several years and is reviewed by the IACUC annually. Dr. Hotchkiss summarized the minor changes made to the plan.

  **Motion:** Dr. Hotchkiss moved to approve the plan. Dr. Brabb seconded the motion.

  **Discussion:** Dr. Fitts suggested that the plan be amended to include a section H, which would address how exemptions to the plan are reviewed by the IACUC. Dr. Fitts had specific wording to contribute, which he gave to Dr. Hotchkiss. Dr. Fitts commented that he felt that this change would make it clear how exemptions should be requested by the PI as well as make it clear to the primate center how to determine if the exemptions are from the approved protocol.

  Dr. Newman clarified that “program coordinator” was referring to the psychological well-being coordinator that does the implementation and the behavioral management coordinator who reviews the materials.

  **Revised Motion:** Dr. Hotchkiss moved to approve the plan incorporating the suggestions made by Dr. Fitts. Dr. Brabb seconded the motion.

  **Vote on the Motion:** The motion passed unanimously with 14 members voting in favor.
IACUC Training

Eye Wash

Dr. Thompson-Iritani said she would present the information for Ms. Cashman who was not able to attend the meeting. Dr. Thompson-Iritani explained that the topic of eyewash requirements frequently comes up during site visits. The requirement is that eyewashes are to be checked and flushed weekly for 15 seconds and best practices indicate that they should be flushed until the water runs clear. In order to address differences in documenting eyewash deficiencies by the IACUC and the lab safety group, Dr. Thompson-Iritani will be meeting with Mr. Murray, Assistant Director, Building & Fire Safety, Environmental Health and Safety to discuss how to offer consistent guidance to labs. The main goal was to ensure that working eyewashes are available in case of emergency.

Facility Extension Requests

Site Visit Deficiency Completion Deadline Extension Requests:

Dr. Clark informed the IACUC that there were three extension requests as follows:

- Site: DCM Brotman Vivarium
  Deficiencies:
  1. Large crack high on the wall needs to be fixed (marked by masking tape).
  2. Deep gouges in wall near floor, penetrating through to the wallboard need to be repaired.
  3. Paint chipping off wall near hood (to left) needs to be removed and repainted.
  4. Large scrapes on wall penetrating through to the wallboard need to be fixed.
  5. Ceiling paint flaking off over tunnel washer needs to be repainted.

  Original Citation: 7/11/13
  Original Deadline: 10/31/13
  Extension Deadline: 12/31/13

  Reason for request: The facility supervisor submitted a work order on 7/30/13 but was not able to get the repairs completed by the original deadline because the contractor was unresponsive to the work order. The facility supervisor recalls contacting the contractor at least three times verbally. He spoke with the contractor supervisor on 11/15/13 and was told the painter would be back in town on 11/20/13 to begin painting. As a result, the facility supervisor is requesting that the deadline be extended to December 31, 2013.

  Motion: Dr. E. Clark moved to approve the deadline extension. Dr. Brabb seconded the motion.

  Discussion: none

  Vote on the Motion: The deadline extension was approved unanimously with 14 members voting in favor.

- Site: Health Sciences H225A, H227, H231, J083B
  Deficiency: Emergency power source is not available in case of a blackout.
Facility Services initially requested an extension for the project to 12/31/13 to allow the engineers to plan and coordinate the emergency power for the labs.

**Second extension request:** Facility Services is requesting an extension to 1/31/14 because the electrical design for the emergency power source projects will not be completed by the original deadline. As a result, they are requesting that the deadline be extended to January 31, 2014.

Motion: Dr. E. Clark moved to approve the deadline extension. Dr. Newman seconded the motion.

Vote on the Motion: The motion was passed unanimously with 14 members voting in favor.

- **Site:** WaNPRC Health Sciences I-Wing/Court Vivarium

Original Citation: 9/17/13
Original Deadline: 1/15/14
Extension Deadline: 2/28/14

Reason for request: Facility Services is requesting the extension to enable them to coordinate repairs with animals being moved. As a result, they are requesting that the deadline be extended to February 28, 2014.

Motion: Dr. E. Clark moved to extend the deadline to February 28, 2014. Dr. Sullivan seconded the motion.

Discussion: None

Vote on the Motion: The extension was approved unanimously with 14 members voting in favor.
Subcommittee Updates:

• **Pilot Project Review Forms**

  Dr. Thompson-Iritani summarized Dr. Istvan’s report. There were 11 protocols turned in, 10 of which had been processed. Eight more protocols are scheduled to be submitted. Feedback from people who have used the new form continue to be valuable.

• **Nonhuman Protocol Reassignment**

  Dr. Newman explained that the subcommittee met in October and are working on a revised draft of the policy.

• **Site Visit Guidance Document**

  Dr. E. Clark said they met at the beginning of November and another meeting is planned in December. Those who had been working on species-specific information are finished and information is being compiled into a spreadsheet.

Closing Business

The meeting was brought to a close at 3:47 pm. The floor was opened to public comment.