Opening Business

The IACUC Chair called the meeting to order at 2:57pm.

The IACUC Chair welcomed MB back to the Committee.

Approval of the IACUC Meeting Minutes

The Chair called for the approval of the October 22, 2015 IACUC meeting Minutes.

Motion: A motion to approve the minutes as written was made and seconded.

Discussion: None

Vote on the Motion: The meeting minutes were approved with 11 members voting in favor and 5 abstentions.

Attending Veterinarian’s Report

Facility issues:

- **Humidity:**
  In one lab-managed rodent room the humidity had dropped below 30% three days in November (lowest was 19%). No medical issues were noted. The same issues occurred in a second lab-managed rat housing room, however the lowest humidity was noted to be 27%.

- **Temperature and lights:**
  On Friday Oct. 30, 2015, in one lab-managed mouse housing room there was a greater than 4 degree swing of temperature (4.5°F, 70.9°F to 75.4°F). It was resolved by the next day.
Protocol Monitoring: There are 14 protocols on the veterinary monitoring program. Ten protocols involve surgery, 2 involve restraint and surgery, 1 involves anesthesia and other procedures, and 1 involves other procedures.

OAW Director's Report – Summary slide in folder

The Preview process is in place so there are fewer items on the CTC during this shift. STI thanks everyone for doing their DMR assignments and reminded the IACUC to let GL know if they can’t complete their DMR assignments.

JS asked how people felt about the DMR process. There was general discussion regarding the general time between each of the steps in the DMR process.

NHP Social Contact Introduction Procedure – CH explained that the SOP was up for its annual review and that there had not been any changes made since the last time the IACUC reviewed it. CH briefly explained that the SOP describes the procedures that Psychological Well Being staff use when introducing NHPs to social contact. It was explained that the success rate is about 90%. The Attending Veterinarian reviews EE exemptions twice a month.

Motion: A motion to approve the SOP was made and seconded.

Discussion: It was explained that there is a lot of planning and observation done prior to pair introductions.

Vote on the Motion: The SOP was approved unanimously with 16 members voting in favor.

Harm Benefit Analysis Subcommittee

The subcommittee has created a draft of the mouse and rat as well as large animal food and water restriction policy. The mouse and rat policy is available for review in the shared drive for the November IACUC meeting. The Committee was asked to provide comments before the December meeting. The large animal draft is available for review in the Harm Benefit Analysis (HBA) subcommittee. TB planned to present both at the next scheduled IACUC meeting.

The Committee discussed one of the changes to the policy, which would require Veterinary Services to be notified if an animal loses 15% of its pre-study body weight. This change brings the policy into alignment with NIH Guidelines for Diet Control in Behavioral Research Studies.
IACUC Training – Drug and Food Expiration Dates

The Expired Drug and Biomaterials Policy had been updated and was available for review in the November IACUC meeting folder.

Key topics:

How do you tell if a drug is expired? If it says November 2015 what day of the month does it expire? It expires at the end of the month.

When does food expire? Regular, standard chow standard expires 6 months after the manufacturer date. For special diet the expiration varies and the dates will be bag.

MT noted that for some drugs, such as Western Chemical MS222, the expiration date is in the lot number.

TB reminded IACUC members that if they can’t figure it out, they should write it down and bring it back to OAW for follow up.

STI commented that for aliquots, IACUC site visitors should educate lab members on proper storage and dates (e.g., expiration or manufacture dates).

Anesthesia Certification Requirements in USDA Regulated Species

Policies:

TB summarized the certification requirements and explained the implementation plan, with the goal of having all individuals certified by February 1, 2016.

The Committee was reminded that previously, the policy allowed for certain individuals to be exempt from certification but the policy had been revised in September 2015 to omit that possibility. In the past two months, two researchers that were originally grandfathered have been certified. In one case, the individual had to take both the written test and the in-person certification, and the other was just the in-person certification because of their education. There is one individual that feels it is not fair that he be required to take the written test just because he does not meet the criteria outlined in the policy, and he is asking for an exemption for this from the IACUC.

The Committee was asked to determine whether or not exemption requests should be considered on a case-by-case basis. The Committee discussed potential reasons for exemption and in general, felt that standardization of certification requirements would be beneficial as opposed to providing individual exemptions.

Motion: A motion to approve the policy as written was made and seconded.
Discussion: The policy would be revisited in February 2016 to see how it was working.

Vote on the Motion: The policy was approved unanimously with 16 members voting in favor.

Closing Business:

The Meeting was brought to a close at 3:40pm. The floor was opened to public comment.