PACUC Newsletter
Purdue Animal Care and Use Committee
Purdue University
http://www.purdue.edu/Research/ORA/animals/animals-main.shtml

Vol. 18, No. 3, September 2003

PACUC Membership Change

Effective August 1, 2003, Professor Michael Jacovides (PHIL) joined the Purdue Animal Care and Use Committee as the non-scientist member. Prof. Jacovides will serve a three-year term on PACUC and the committee welcomes him aboard!

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Newly Revised PACUC Protocol Form and Guidelines

The PACUC has recently approved the use of a revised protocol application. This form will become effective October 1, 2003, and will replace the current protocol form dated July 1999. The new form may be obtained from our web site at: www.purdue.edu/Research/ORA/animals/forms.shtml. Please do not begin using it until October 1, 2003.

Accompanying this revised form is a document entitled, “Guidelines for Completing an Application to Use Vertebrate Animals in Research, Teaching, or Testing.” This document is also available on our website and its purpose is to provide assistance on completing the protocol application.

During the past four years, many new regulations have been put into place and this necessitated updating the protocol application. It is the hope of PACUC that this revision has eliminated much of the redundancy found in the 1999 version, puts questions in a more logical sequence, and asks “better questions” of the
faculty so that you no longer receive such lengthy question memos.

Please note that any application submitted to PACUC on or after October 1 on the 1999 version will be returned and you will be asked to resubmit it on the 2003 version. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the PACUC office at: pacuc@purdue.edu or 494-7206.

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Personnel Qualifications - Update

The June issue of the PACUC Newsletter described a web-based training site that will be used by PACUC to provide a uniform level of knowledge in the basic needs, handling, and care of animal species commonly used in research. The module on “Humane Care and Use of Rats and Mice” is now on line and a second module on “Aseptic Surgery of Rodents” is expected within the next month. As new users submit Qualification Forms to the PACUC office, they will be advised to view the appropriate module(s) prior to issuance of their qualification number, allowing them to work independently with the qualified animal specie(s). Once the user has successfully completed the on-line module, a notification of completion will be sent to the PACUC office and a qualification number will be issued.

Each module will take approximately 30 minutes to complete and can be accessed from any computer that allows internet connection. If you would like your new animal users to complete these modules prior to further hands-on training in your laboratory, the training module may be found at the URL below:

http://hazel.forest.net/latanet/client/purdue/introduction.htm

Username: purdue
Password: bell

Since this is a new training program, comments and suggestions for improvement are appreciated (lap@purdue.edu). These modules are intended to provide a more uniform understanding of basic information on animal species and techniques, but they will not substitute for hands-on training. If you would like assistance in hands-on training, please call the Laboratory Animal Program at 494-9163. For further continuing education opportunities in laboratory animal care and use, please refer to the series of “Brown Bag Seminars for Animal Users” located at the end of this newsletter.

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Occupational Health and Safety Program for Individuals with Animal Exposure

The Occupational Health and Safety Program for Individuals with Animal Exposure is an important part of Purdue University’s institutional laboratory animal care program and is designed to protect both Purdue personnel and the laboratory animals. Over the past year, the scope and content of the program have been updated to more closely meet guidelines in the NIH Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals and the National Research Council publication Occupational Health and Safety in the Care and use of Research Animals.

Individuals included in the updated program are animal caretakers and technicians and the following people having exposure to laboratory animals: principal investigators, students listed on approved PACUC protocols, laboratory personnel, and maintenance and custodial personnel. A newly developed Participation/Declination form will be used to enroll all personnel with animal exposure who wish to participate. For those choosing participation (at no cost to the individuals), medical services will be based on a risk assessment of the individuals exposure to animals used in teaching, testing, and research at Purdue in combination with a medical questionnaire. Those persons who choose to decline will need to follow the instructions on the Participation/Declination form and return it to the appropriate office.

Administration of the program will be through Radiological and Environmental Management and not the Laboratory Animal Program as in the past. All personnel with exposure to laboratory animals will be receiving the Participation/Declination form in the near future to enroll or decline participation in the program. It is imperative that this form be returned to REM. For more program information go to: http://www.purdue.edu/Research/ORA/animals/occhealth.shtml

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Fall 2003 PACUC Meeting Dates

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<th>Meeting Date</th>
<th>Deadline Date for Protocol Submission</th>
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<tr>
<td>September 10</td>
<td>Aug. 20 @ 5:00 p</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 15</td>
<td>Sept. 24 @ 5:00 p</td>
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<td>November 5</td>
<td>Oct. 15 @ 5:00 p</td>
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<td>December 10</td>
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Fall 2003 PACUC
Orientation Programs for
Vertebrate Animal Users

The orientation program for new faculty, staff, and students, who will be using vertebrate animals in research, teaching, and/or testing, will be held on the following dates during the fall semester:

Tuesday, October 7, 1:30-3:00 p.m. in LILY 1-125.
Tuesday, November 4, 1:30-3:30 p.m. in LILY 1-125.
Tuesday, December 2, 1:30-3:30 p.m. in LILY 1-125.

Attendance at one of these sessions is mandatory for personnel (faculty, staff, students) who wish to initiate work with vertebrate animals at Purdue University. Personnel will not be approved to work with animals until such time that they have attended one of these meetings or completed the program on-line. The on-line program may be accessed by going to the following URL:
http://www.purdue.edu/Research/ORA/animals/login.shtml. The password to enter is “pass” (without the quotation marks).

This program presented by staff of the Purdue Animal Care and Use Committee and the Laboratory Animal Program is designed to introduce you to the Purdue system for maintaining regulatory compliance with federal and University guidelines and ensuring humane care and use of laboratory animals.

Please register for one of the "live" sessions via e-mail to Lisa Snider at ldsnider@purdue.edu.

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Triennial Review of Approved Protocols

As most of you are aware, PACUC requires a complete re-write of your protocol application every three years as part of the triennial review process (i.e., protocol approvals are only valid for a period of three years).

There have been several recent occurrences of investigators not returning their triennial re-writes in a timely manner, thus prompting deactivation of their protocol(s) by the PACUC office.

In some cases where protocols were deactivated, if a study was funded by a granting agency, the Sponsored Programs Services office “froze” the investigator's money until such time that the compliance approval was regained.

It has also been the case that investigators have allowed their protocol(s) approval to lapse even
though research continued to be performed. In this instance, it is considered a protocol violation and must be reported at a full, convened meeting of the PACUC where the violation and possible sanctions to be placed on the PI are discussed and then recommended to the Institutional Official (Vice Provost for Research) for consideration.

PACUC would like to take this opportunity to remind investigators to return their re-written forms as promptly as possible to allow enough time for the protocols to be reviewed and re-approved. This will help all of us at Purdue remain in compliance.

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Appropriate Alternative Searches

Those of you who have submitted a protocol application to the PACUC office, are aware that one of the sections in the application requires that a literature search for alternatives (e.g., less painful/distressful animal procedures, use of phylogenetically lower species, or non-animal procedures) be completed.

During a recent (May 2003) protocol inspection by the USDA veterinary medical officer assigned to Purdue, it was discovered that some of the searches he reviewed were lacking in completion. Based on this inspection, it was recommended that the key words used when performing searches be more specific to include the species to be used and the procedure(s) to be conducted on said species (e.g., rat, blood withdrawal, injection, chemotherapeutic agents, alternatives). The search must always contain the word “alternatives.” It is not expected that all searches will find no hits. If a search produces a “hit,” the principal investigator simply needs to indicate why the intended activities are novel.

The specific statement, “The proposed activities do not unnecessarily duplicate previous experiments,” must also be included as part of describing the results of the search.

For more information on how to perform appropriate literature searches, a good resource is the Animal Welfare Information Center. They may be contacted at: (301) 504-6212 or http://www.nal.usda.gov/awic/.