Vol. 19, No. 3, September 2004

Choroid Plexus Tissue Needed

The laboratory of Prof. Wei Zheng (HSCI) is working in the neurotoxicology field, specifically in the areas of:

• Toxicology of blood-brain barrier and blood-CSF barrier
• Neurotoxicology of heavy metals such as lead, manganese, iron, aluminum, and mercury; transport, homeostasis in the CNS, and molecular mechanisms
• Roles of brain barriers in etiology of neurodegenerative diseases such as Parkinson’s syndrome and Alzheimer’s disease
• Transport of substances by the blood-CSF barrier in the choroid plexus
• In vitro model of blood-brain/CSF barrier

This laboratory is in need of brain tissue to collect choroid plexus tissues from large size animals (i.e., rabbits, cats, dogs, sheep). If anyone on campus uses these species and is able to provide this lab with brain tissue after they have performed euthanasia as part of their own project, please contact Prof. Zheng at wz18@purdue.edu or 66447.

Purdue Animal Care and Use Program to be Evaluated by AAALAC-I

During the period September 27-October 1, 2004, Purdue’s animal care and use program will be peer reviewed by a team of site visitors representing AAALAC International (the Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care International). You may see groups of individuals visiting animal facilities, research laboratories where animals are taken to, or they might wish to speak with specific investigators regarding their research efforts that involve the use of animals.

AAALAC-I is a private, nonprofit organization that promotes the humane treatment of animals in science through a voluntary accreditation program. A Board of Trustees chosen from more than 60 prestigious scientific, educational and professional organizations governs AAALAC-I. More than 660 institutions in 21 countries have earned AAALAC-I accreditation, demonstrating their commitment to responsible animal care and use. They include universities,
hospitals, government agencies, pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies, and other types of research organizations. AAALAC-I has been working to promote animal well being and enhance life sciences research and education since its inception in 1965.

In the United States, there are 74 land grant institutions, but only 29 are AAALAC-I accredited. Among those that are accredited, only 11 have "campus-wide" accreditation, meaning that every school or college within the institution that uses animals in research, teaching or testing is accredited. The others have "university-limited" accreditation, meaning only certain components of the university are accredited.

As part of its strategic plan, Purdue is pursuing "campus-wide" accreditation (a single accreditation for the entire institution). All units must meet the required standards for the campus to be accredited. Schools that will be included in the review include: School of Agriculture (to include ASREC and Research Extension Units at Feldun and SIPAC); School of Consumer and Family Sciences (Foods and Nutrition); School of Engineering (Biomedical Engineering); School of Liberal Arts (Psychology); School of Pharmacy; School of Sciences (Biology); School of Veterinary Medicine; and the Hansen Cancer Center.

**Regulations and policies used by AAALAC-I to evaluate programs**

AAALAC-I is not a regulatory body and does not make or enforce regulations. Instead, AAALAC-I relies on widely accepted guidelines, such as the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (NRC 1996). The Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Agricultural Research and Teaching (FASFAS 1997) is also used by AAALAC-I evaluators as a resource in agricultural settings. AAALAC-I does recognize other resource documents and has published "position statements" that can be used as a supplemental guideline in dealing with certain issues, such as the use of farm animals, performance of surgery, occupational health and safety, or adequate veterinary care.

The site visit/evaluation team that will visit Purdue will be comprised of highly accomplished animal care and use professionals and researchers who are knowledgeable about diverse animal programs and management issues and who will make the recommendation to AAALAC-I if Purdue should be awarded accreditation.

**AAALAC-I Program Evaluation**

AAALAC-I evaluates all aspects of an animal care and use program. An animal program (as defined by AAALAC-I) includes an organization’s procedures and overall performance in the area of animal care and use in research, education, testing or breeding. The basic components that are evaluated include (but are not limited to) institutional policies, animal husbandry, veterinary care and the physical plant. Unlike regulatory visits conducted by the USDA, the entire accreditation process is confidential. The accreditation evaluation and its results are kept between Purdue and AAALAC International—even if deficiencies are found. AAALAC-I’s purpose is to provide a peer-evaluation that results in valuable information
organizations can use to improve their programs and achieve new levels of excellence.

**What deficiencies are noted most often by AAALAC-I site visitors?**

When problem areas are cited, they commonly involve: IACUC (Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee) procedures; condition of physical plant, inadequate heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems; animal husbandry management concerns; or deficiencies in the employee occupational health and safety program.

Each year, AAALAC-I compiles lists of the most common deficiencies evaluators noted in the animal programs they reviewed. It might be of interest to readers of this PACUC newsletter that issues related to IACUCs are often identified during AAALAC-I site visits. The specific deficiencies have included:

- Inadequate review and follow-up of the animal care and use program.
- Need for more rigorous protocol review.
- Assurance of participation in and adequacy of training programs.
- Inadequately addressing issues pertaining to pain and distress.
- Need for IACUC to review and approve deviations from the *Guide*.
- IACUC assurance of adequate veterinary care.
- Inadequate IACUC oversight of animals in satellite/contract facilities.
- Changes in protocol without IACUC review and approval.
- Allowing ordering of animals without assignment to an animal use protocol.
- Not all animals covered by a protocol (e.g., breeding animals).
- Inadequate facility inspections (e.g., laboratories).

**Why is Purdue University pursuing AAALAC-I Accreditation?**

As found on the AAALAC-I website, the top reasons why research institutions have earned AAALAC-I accreditation include:

*It represents quality...*

Organizations and companies look for ways to communicate their commitment to excellence. In the scientific community, AAALAC-I accreditation shows that an institution is serious about setting, achieving and maintaining high standards for animal care and use. Around the world, AAALAC-I accreditation is recognized as a symbol of quality.

*It promotes scientific validity...*

When scientific research involves animals, reliable results depend on superior animal care. AAALAC-I accreditation engages scientists, managers and administrators in an independent, rigorous assessment of their institution’s animal program—an assessment that ultimately results in better research practices and outcomes.

*It’s a recruiting tool...*

AAALAC-I accredited institutions use their accreditation as a recruiting tool to attract the best and brightest researchers and professors. Talented professionals look for high-quality programs, and accreditation assures potential employees that the institution is dedicated to achieving the highest standards for animal care and use.
It demonstrates accountability...
Today, organizations involved in animal research are held to very high levels of accountability - by their own constituents and the general public. Although animal research is a controversial issue for some, most people support biomedical research if it’s conducted in a humane manner. Accreditation through AAALAC-I is voluntary, and demonstrates a willingness to go above and beyond the minimums required by law. It tells the public that the institution is committed to responsible animal research.

It provides a confidential peer-review...
Accreditation requires an institution to first perform its own self-evaluation (an extremely valuable management exercise). Next, a team of highly qualified professionals provides a confidential, on-site evaluation of the institution’s animal care and use program. The independent review assures management that the research program is maintaining high standards. The assessment also helps them learn how they can achieve even higher levels of good animal care and quality research.

It impresses funding sources and research partners...
Many private biomedical organizations, including the American Heart Association and the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, strongly recommend that grantees using animals in their studies be part of an AAALAC-I accredited program. Government agencies such as NIH, NASA, the Department of Defense, Veterans Affairs and the National Science Foundation see AAALAC-I accreditation as a commitment to program excellence. Both private and public funding sources view accreditation as an assurance that animal use will be justified and humane, and that appropriate regulations and policies will be followed.

It shows a real commitment to humane animal care...
Accreditation shows the world that an institution is serious about its commitment to humane animal care. It’s an investment that delivers the benefits outlined above and much more.

---

Fall 2004 PACUC Meeting Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meeting Date</th>
<th>Deadline Date for Protocol Submission</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 15</td>
<td>August 25 @ 5:00 p</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 20</td>
<td>Sept. 29 @ 5:00 p</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 17</td>
<td>Oct. 27 @ 5:00 p</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 15</td>
<td>Nov. 24 @ 5:00 p</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

Fall 2004 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 5, 1:30-3:00 p.m. in STEW 214C.
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/animals. 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.

Registration is required to attend one of the "live" sessions and may be done via e-mail to Lisa Snider at ldnider@purdue.edu.