

Standing Committee Annual Report

Name of Committee or Council: University Animal Care and Use Committee (Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, IACUC)

Chair: Gilbert Pitts, Ph.D.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP: Committee membership is mandated by both APSU policy and federal guidelines. This year the following individuals served on this committee: (Director, Research and Sponsored Programs), Laura Colman (Community rep.), Christina Galben (Veterinarian), Carl Gerhold (Manager, Environmental Health and Safety), Daniel M. Price (student rep), Brian Hock (Psychology), Dan Meyer (non-scientist), Rodney Mills (Agriculture), Gilbert Pitts (Chair), Jane Semler (Allied Health), and Stefan Woltmann (CEFB). The Chair wishes to thank the committee members very much for all their hard work. The Chair also thanks Kelly Pitts for her work in on this committee.

Meeting Dates for 2020-2021:

December 9, 2020

Regular meeting
Semiannual IACUC program review

May 5, 2021

Regular meeting
Semiannual IACUC program review
Vote on Committee Chair

Major Actions & Accomplishments

ANIMAL PROTOCOL REVIEWS: Reviewed 22 new animal protocols. We also managed 52 on-going protocols.

IACUC CHAIR: The Committee voted that Dr. Stefan Woltmann will serve as Chair for 2021-2022.

We added CITI courses for the Institutional Official and the Use of Wildlife.

Committee Recommendations to APSU Administration

Introduction

The work of this committee is guided by *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* (Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare, NIH) and by *Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Agriculture Research and Teaching* (Federation of Animal Science Societies). These guides require institutions to adhere to certain standards of animal care and use in the conduct of research involving animals. The basic requirements for a compliant institutional program are outlined in our Semi-Annual Program Review Checklist which is attached to this document. Compliance with the standards set out by these two guides not only

allows an institution to be eligible for funding from agencies such as NIH, NSF, and USDA but also assures the wider community that research and teaching with animals at APSU is conducted ethically and conscientiously.

Concerns

We need to continue following the Veterinary Technologist program to maintain compliance. Specifically, we need to ensure that we monitor our need to register as an animal user with the USDA.

This faculty committee has worked diligently to bring APSU's animal program up to full compliance with these standards. The following areas could be improved:

1. There are several on-going issues regarding the Occupational Health and Safety of Personnel.
2. Of particular concern is our lack of a Program for medical evaluation and preventative medicine for personnel. The IACUC checklist requires the following item:
 - a. Pre-employment evaluation including health history

The committee has identified several existing policies in APSU's Policies and Procedures Manual that address some items in this area. The relevant policies are listed below:

[APSU Safety Policy](#)

[APSU TOSHA Policy](#)

[Hazardous Materials Policy](#)

[APSU Hepatitis Policy](#)

Currently, the committee is posting on the IACUC website information on zoonotic diseases and depending upon individual investigators to ensure that all personnel on a given project have been informed of zoonosis and other hazards and are immunized if appropriate.

Recommendations

The committee recommends that APSU develop a procedure, perhaps through Health Services, to be able to offer individuals who work with animals pre-work health screening, health monitoring, and vaccinations if appropriate. We are particularly concerned about the health of APSU employees working with animals such as bats. These people require rabies vaccinations and it would be extremely helpful if health services would pay for and provide these.