

ORC Newsletter for Researchers

SUMMER 2009

CLEMSON UNIVERSITY

ORC (Office of Research Compliance)

Special Points of Interest

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- ◆ When the PI Is the Department Chair, Who Signs?
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Committee Membership Changes

Vance Baird, IBC Chair, has accepted a position as Chair of the Department of Horticulture at Michigan State University. Dr. Baird served as a member of the IBC for 16 years and 9 of those years as Chair. We thank him for his valuable service and wish him the very best in his new role. William Marcotte, Jr., Professor in the Genetics and Biochemistry Department will assume the role of IBC Chair on June 1, 2009. Dr. Marcotte has been on the IBC for 6 years. In addition, James Morris, Associate Professor in Genetics and Biochemistry will become a member of the IBC

committee on August 15, 2009.

Rob Bixler, Associate Professor in Parks, Recreation and Tourism Management (PRTM), will join the IRB on August 15, 2009.

Peter Skewes, Professor of Animal and Veterinary Science will join the IACUC as Vice Chair on August 15, 2009.

Tom Jenkins, Liaison to Research Farm Services and Professor of Animal and Veterinary Science will also join the IACUC on August 15, 2009.

Jennifer Groff, Librarian, and Gary Burns, Farm Manager, join the committee as alternate members effective August 15, 2009. Many thanks to those

IACUC members whose terms end in August 2009:

Peter Kent, Tom Kozel, Kari Tankersley, and Steve Waggoner.

When the PI Is the Department Chair, Who Signs?

When the PI is the department chair, the PI's direct supervisor should sign the protocol application. The forms have been revised to reflect this clarification.

Brown Bag Series Topics

If you have a topic you would like to see presented in our Brown Bag Series please let us know. Please contact [Tracy Arwood](#) with your suggestions.

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IACUC (Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee)

Literature Search Help

A literature search is required for any vertebrate animal use protocol submission which is assigned by the Attending Veterinarian as a pain category D or E. The literature search should include the 3-R's which are: replacement, reduction and refinement. Pain categories are described by the USDA as: Category D: Animals used in teaching, testing, experi-

ments, research, or surgery, involving accompanying pain and/or distress to the animal and for which appropriate anesthetic, analgesic, or tranquilizing drugs are used.

Category E: Animals used in teaching, testing, experiments, research, or surgery, involving accompanying pain and/or distress to the animal and for which the use of appropriate anesthetic, analgesic, or tranquil-

izing drugs are not used because they would adversely affect the interpretation of the teaching, testing, research, experiment, or surgery.

For literature search help, all the databases mentioned below, and more can be found in the [A-Z list of databases](#) on the [Libraries' homepage](#). If you are off-campus, you will be invited to sign-in using your Clemson ID and password - the

IACUC (continued)

same ones used for email. Call 656-3024 if you need assistance, or email [Lois Sill](#). You are strongly encouraged to search the [Web of Knowledge](#), which includes [Web of Science](#) plus BIOSIS, Zoological Record, and Current Contents. Choose the ALL DATABASES tab and you are searching them simultaneously. The databases in Web of Knowledge cover proceedings, meetings, conferences, plus journal articles. The “[cited reference search](#)” capability is an option from the Web of Science page. [PubMed/MEDLINE](#) covers only journal literature for human and veterinary medicine, dental and nursing literature. This is a free database but the

access to articles is not always free. The Libraries have paid for access to many of the journals, but cannot afford all. Use [Interlibrary Loan](#) when you need an article to which we do not own access. [CAB Direct](#) is produced in the UK and covers the following topics, among others, on a worldwide basis: agriculture, including animal production and welfare, animal and veterinary sciences, including animal nutrition, entomology, aquaculture and equine science, environmental sciences, microbiology and parasitology.

AAALAC Site Visit

The reaccreditation site visit by AAALAC International

took place March 25, 26, and 27, 2009. The site visit team’s report was presented to the AAALAC Council in May and we received continued full accreditation. We thank everyone for all their hard work in preparing for the site visit. Many long hours went into preparing for the site visit so that we could showcase our animal care and use program. We are one of only a handful of land-grant universities that seeks AAALAC accreditation for both our laboratory and farm animals. Again, thanks to all for your support.

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IBC (Institutional Biosafety Committee)

Toxins of Biological Origin

At the March IBC meeting, the IBC clarified its role with respect to research involving the use of toxins of a biological nature. The IBC will review the use of toxins of a biological origin only if that toxin is on the current [HHS and USDA Select Agents and Toxins List](#). This list is on the [IBC web site](#).

In addition to research with recombinant DNA, infectious (biological) agents, select agents/toxins, the IBC reviews the use of chemical hazards when the research involves the use of hazardous chemicals with vertebrate animals. For

questions, please contact [Marlene Ventura](#).

Articles of Interest

Researchers may find the following two documents helpful: First, Appendix I of the [BMBL 5th edition](#) entitled “*Guidelines for Work with Toxins of Biological Origin*” and secondly, an article by Johnson, B. et al., [Safety and Health Considerations for Conducting Work with Biological Toxins](#), *Applied Biosafety*, 6 (3) pp. 117-135, © ABSA, 2001. The article by Johnson et. al. has a very nice suggested preoperational checklist for toxin work.

Nanotechnology and Your Health

NIOSH invites researchers to stay current with developments in strategic research on the occupational health and safety implications and applications of nanotechnology. New resources, publications, and partnerships are highlighted regularly in NIOSH’s “Nanotechnology Spotlights” on the nanotechnology topic page, <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/nanotech/>.

Minors Working on Approved IBC Protocols

Individuals under the age

IBC (continued)

of 18, are considered minors and must assent to participation in IBC approved research and must have the written permission of their parent or guardian. This policy includes all persons under

the age of 18 whether students, employees or volunteers. The minor and parent/guardian reviews and signs the Clemson University “[Minor Registration Form](#)”. In addition, the student signs the “[Hazard Acknowledgment](#)

[Form](#)” which describes the nature of the hazards associated with the agent(s) under the IBC protocol as well as the policies and procedures that are to be followed. Both the [policy](#) and [form](#) can be found on the [IBC website](#).

IRB (Institutional Review Board)

New IRB Forms Available on Our Website

The Office of Research Compliance is pleased to announce the release of several new IRB forms, including new applications for both Exempt and Expedited/Full Review. Additionally, a template for Additional Research Team Members and an improved Prisoner Research Addendum are now available. All of these forms are available on our website at [http://www.clemson.edu/research/compliance/irb/](http://www.clemson.edu/research/compliance/irb/forms.html)

[forms.html](#).

The new application forms are designed to be more user-friendly and include links throughout to helpful resources and templates. The new forms are also set up to reduce the need for providing redundant information and provide more specific questions to guide researchers through the application process.

Please note that there will be a four month transitional period during which either the new or old application forms will be accepted. Start-

ing October 1, 2009, researchers must submit IRB applications on the new forms. As before, researchers are encouraged to submit their applications electronically to our staff IRB account at irb@clemson.edu.

These new forms were developed by the ORC with input from IRB members and a select group of Clemson researchers. We would like to thank all those who provided input for their valuable insights and suggestions.

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RESEARCH INTEGRITY

CASE STUDY

Office of Investigative General Disagrees with Institution Regarding Severity of PI's Plagiarism (adapted from the OIG Semiannual Report to Congress, September 2008)

A PI from an Illinois institution plagiarized text and citations from multiple source documents into four NSF proposals. OIG office initiated an inquiry based on an allegation that a PI plagiarized into three propos-

als. During the inquiry, the PI stated he had permission to use some of the text, and he claimed he had not paid close attention to work by his students that he incorporated into some of the proposals. OIG was not persuaded by the PI's explanation of events, and decided to refer the investigation to his institution. The institution's inquiry committee reviewed the matter and determined there was no misconduct because:

- ◆ the plagiarism was in the background section of the proposals;

- ◆ none of the proposals was funded;
- ◆ the PI admitted his mistake; and
- ◆ the PI had received permission, albeit after the fact, to use much of the material.

The institution counseled the PI, closed the case, and recommended no sanctions be imposed. After carefully reviewing its report, OIG determined that the institution's inquiry was not sufficiently thorough. The committee did not verify the PI's explanation that he used his students' project reports in copy-

OIG disagrees with institution regarding severity of PI's plagiarism.

RESEARCH INTEGRITY (continued)

ing the material, and it did not look into what the PI told the authors of some of the source documents when he sought and received after-the-fact permission to use their text. OIG initiated their own investigation, and discovered a fourth proposal that contained a significant amount of copied text, which the PI also failed to adequately explain. OIG contacted the authors of two source

documents that according to the PI, had given him after-the-fact permission for him to use portions of their text. Both authors responded with deep concern and surprise at the amount of copied text involved, and both said that the PI had not adequately described the full degree of copying. OIG concluded that the PI committed research

misconduct when he plagiarized text in four NSF proposals. NSF agreed with OIG's recommended finding, debarred the subject for one year, required certifications and assurances for 3 years, barred him from peer review for 3 years, and required him to complete a course in research ethics.

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The Office of Research Compliance (ORC) promotes a culture of compliance, research integrity, and high quality research within the University community. This is accomplished through consultation and educational programs for all researchers. The ORC facilitates University research, teaching, and public service programs by providing oversight and coordination of research compliance areas involving human subjects, vertebrate animals, recombinant DNA, hazardous agents and research misconduct.

Promoting ethical and responsible research involving vertebrate animals, hazardous materials, and human subjects.

[http://
www.clemson.edu
/research/
compliance/](http://www.clemson.edu/research/compliance/)

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