2023-2024 IACUC Deadlines and Meeting Dates

Investigators are encouraged to submit protocols that are due for 3-year renewal early to allow time for pre-review of the protocol by the research liaisons and veterinarians. This will help expedite the review and approval of the protocol. Should you have any questions, please contact OARS at iacuc@yale.edu.

Research Liaison Department Assignments

Reporting Animal Welfare Concerns

Yale University ensures that no individual will be discriminated against or be subject to any reprisal for raising a concern or reporting violations to any regulation or standard pertaining to an animal cared for or used under our Animal Program umbrella.

A concern or report can be made anonymously. Whether or not made anonymously, all reviews and investigations will be dealt with confidentially to the extent reasonably possible.
Please refer to Reporting Animal Care and Use Concerns for more information.

**PI Direct Care**

For labs providing direct husbandry and care to their animals, a Special Instruction (SI) must be reviewed and approved by the IACUC as part of the IACUC protocol. Previously, PI Direct Care was considered a Deviation of Standard Practice (DSP). For labs that currently have a DSP for PI Direct Care, no immediate action is necessary. Your Research Liaison will work with you to convert the DSP into an SI during your protocol renewal.

New animal users providing direct husbandry and care to their animals will be required to complete the course, “Performing Animal Care and Husbandry Activities,” located in the AALAS Learning Library (ALL), to fulfill the PI Direct Care competency.

**IMPORTANT** Change in Buprenorphine Dosing

Over the past several years, many publications have shown that twice per day dosing of buprenorphine HCl in mice and rats is not sufficient for consistent pain relief. Many of those publications are included in a recent review article, Clinical Management of Pain in Rodents.

To bring Yale up to current veterinary standards, the IACUC will require that dosing of buprenorphine HCl in mice and rats be every 4-6 hours. The Analgesia Policy and the MAPS building blocks will soon be revised to reflect this change.

The IACUC understands that the shortened dosage interval makes dosing at night logistically challenging, as the rodent animal room should not be entered during the dark cycle because lighting use during this time disrupts rodent circadian rhythm and
interferes with breeding. To address these issues, we recommend switching to Ethiqa XR, extended-release buprenorphine that provides pain relief for 72 hours to rats and mice with only one dose. If your lab hasn’t already switched to Ethiqa, you should strongly consider doing so soon. If you wish to add Ethiqa to your protocol, simply contact your research liaison, and they will add Ethiqa on your behalf.

These new requirements were discussed in a Brown Bag session that began on Wednesday 1/25. Additional offerings are available every other week, at 12 PM, until the effective date.

Click here to visit the TMS website to sign up for this training. A Zoom meeting invitation will be sent to all attendees prior to the meeting. If registering for this course off campus, VPN will be required to access the TMS database. Please contact OARS training manager, Brandon Dorry with any questions or for assistance signing up for this course.

To give everyone enough time to plan for this change, the IACUC requests all labs comply by April 1st, 2023.

Annual Check-In Notifications

The IACUC decided to discontinue the process of sending annual check-in email notifications as it offers little value to the program. Please report any unexpected outcomes or adverse events to iacuc@yale.edu or your research liaison.

Rodent Genotyping Issues

Many noncompliance cases involving improper rodent genotyping and identification techniques have been found over the last few years. As such, the IACUC simplified the policy and required the retraining of all study staff and principal investigators of rodent protocols. However, noncompliance cases are continuing to be discovered. Please
review the following requirements.

**Tail Biopsy**
- The IACUC strongly recommends that tail biopsies be collected at or before 17 days of age and be limited to no more than 2 mm.
- If up to a 5mm biopsy is required, then it should be collected at or before 17 days of age. Collecting >2mm after 17 days requires anesthesia and analgesia, i.e., it is considered a minor surgery. A 5mm biopsy is the maximum amount of tail tissue that is permitted to be collected per mouse.

**Ear Punches/Notches**
- This method can be used after weaning, >21 days. At this age, a tail biopsy is NOT permitted.
- The policy was recently updated such that, at a maximum, no more than two 3 mm in diameter ear punches per ear are permissible.

**Please Note** - Rodent Services can manage your colony for you if you are not capable of doing so compliantly—chronically noncompliant labs may be required to use Rodent Services.

As a reminder, all methods of rodent identification or genotyping must be approved in the IACUC protocol prior to the collection of any tissue. The updated Yale Rodent Identification and Genotyping policy can be found here: [Rodent Identification and Genotyping Policy](https://www.yale.edu).

For any questions regarding these requirements, please contact OARS at iacuc@yale.edu.

Scientific Rigor and Reproducibility
The course, Scientific Rigor and Reproducibility, is now available in the AALAS Learning Library (ALL). The Institutional Sign-In Instructions can be found here. The course can be found most easily by:

- Use the menu on the left-hand side of the screen
- Open “Tracks: All Animal Program Personnel”
- Select Scientific Rigor and Reproducibility
- The course should take ~5-10 minutes to complete

As a condition of Yale’s AAALAC International accreditation, we are obligated to provide “education/training as well as direction/recommendations related to scientific rigor and experimental reproducibility to researchers and their staff as well as the IACUC/OB members.” This training course will satisfy this requirement for all new research personnel as of October 13th, 2022. Research personnel who were listed on an IACUC protocol prior to October 13th are not required to complete this course at this time and you should have been credited. If this course erringly appears in your Researcher Profile as “outstanding”, then please contact iacuc@yale.edu to resolve.

Notifications from MAPS for Outstanding Competencies

There have been an increased number of inquiries from the research community regarding notifications from MAPS for outstanding course competencies. Course information can be found in the IACUC Training Policy. If you receive a notification from MAPS, you can view your outstanding course requirements by:

1. Log into MAPS
2. Choosing Researcher Profiles in the header
3. Open your Researcher Profile
4. Choose the Outstanding Course Requirements tab on the profile home page
Medical Surveillance, YARC Facility Training Part 1, and YARC Facility Training Part 2 require communication with the Training Management System (TMS). To effectively communicate with MAPS, requirements for these courses must be in place. These requirements are put in place by answering “yes” to the animal related questions in the TMS compliance assessment. In the future, please ensure that the questions in your compliance assessment are answered properly. If your role has changed since you first took the assessment, you can request to retake it by logging into TMS (VPN required if off-campus) and choosing “Take Your Compliance Assessment” on the home page. If you have already taken the assessment, you will have the option to request a retake. Please contact iacuc@yale.edu with any questions.

**REMEMBER: YARC Facility Training Part 2 (Facility Tour) Requirements**

The prerequisites to participate in a YARC facility tour have been updated. The new requirements are below:

- Listed as personnel on an approved protocol
- Working with the IACUC-AALAS Learning Library (ALL)
- Reporting Animal Welfare Concerns-AALAS Learning Library (ALL)
- Reporting Adverse Events-AALAS Learning Library (ALL)
- Euthanasia Policy-AALAS Learning Library (ALL)
- **NEW** Scientific Rigor and Reproducibility-AALAS Learning Library (ALL)
- YARC Facility Training Part 1-TMS
- Medical Clearance (email medical surveillance form to Employee Health; must receive confirmation of clearance)

**Upcoming Facility Inspections**
To improve the efficiency of the semiannual inspection process and to reduce the burden on research staff with responsibilities in multiple areas, we will be moving to a quarterly inspection schedule. One temporary drawback of this refinement is that by compressing the inspections into fewer months, your facility or lab may be inspected sooner than anticipated during the first semiannual period of 2023. If your lab was recently inspected by the IACUC, or your Research Liaison, we will make every attempt to keep the next inspection brief.

The January inspections have been scheduled, and those dates are listed as well. For those labs with satellite housing areas, please remember that in addition to inspections by IACUC members every six months, your research liaisons will visit your satellite housing areas semiannually as well. The schedule is listed below:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>January-July</th>
<th>April-October</th>
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<tr>
<td>ESC satellites</td>
<td>Amistad</td>
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<tr>
<td>FMB satellite</td>
<td>BCMM</td>
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<td>LSOG-SB</td>
<td>CMHC</td>
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<tr>
<td>LSOG-B</td>
<td>GSF and satellites</td>
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<tr>
<td>LSOG-4 satellite</td>
<td>Greeley satellite (April only)</td>
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<td>LSOG-5</td>
<td>LCI</td>
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<td>MEC</td>
<td>LEPH</td>
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<td>OML satellite</td>
<td>SEAMCO and vehicles</td>
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<td>SHM IG/BG (rodent &amp; aquatic) and satellites</td>
<td>West Campus</td>
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<td>SHM BG (NHPs)</td>
<td>Yale Myers Forest (April only)</td>
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<td>SHM-4 and labs</td>
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Please contact Shannon Denison if you need further information. As always, please check your spaces periodically to ensure the fulfillment of IACUC expectations.
The inspection checklist the IACUC utilizes to document findings is available on the OARS website.

IMPORTANT: If you have locked cabinets, drawers, or boxes that contain drugs or materials with expiration dates, please make sure that they are unlocked for the IACUC to inspect the contents. If you do not want to leave the container unlocked and unsupervised, then the IACUC’s expectation is that you be readily available to open them. Contact Shannon Denison with your contact information and the areas of interest.

Policy Updates

Rodent ID and Genotyping Policy and Standard Procedure
• The term “clipping” was removed. The heading now reads “Ear Punch or Notch.”
  o Under this section, describing a sharp ear punch device, the phrase “scissors or blades are not permitted” was added.
  o At a maximum, no more than two 3 mm in diameter ear punches per ear are permissible.

Animal Care and Use Training Program
• In section 3 where it describes those people who fall into the category of “All Animal Program Personnel”, administrative contacts were added to the list.

Euthanasia Policy, Guidelines, and Procedure
• The name MS 222 Tricaine-S has been changed to Syncaine.

Analgesia Policy
• The IACUC will require that dosing of buprenorphine HCl in mice and rats must be every 4-6 hours. The analgesia policy and the MAPS building blocks will soon be revised to reflect this change.
As always, please contact OARS (iacuc@yale.edu) with any questions, suggestions, or concerns.

Stay safe everyone!

~OARS Team