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Revised ACUC Guidelines

The ACUC has recently revised the following guidelines. Please ensure that you and your staff review these guidelines and incorporate into your research study as they apply:

- *Guidelines Involving Experimental Neoplasia [April 2006]*
- *Guidelines Regarding Engraftment of Human Cells or Tissues into Immunodeficient Mice [June 2006]*
- *Experimental Autoimmune Encephalomyelitis (EAE) and Paralysis Clinical Assessment Guidelines [June 2006]*

These guidelines can be found at the following site: <http://web.ncifcrf.gov/rtp/lasp/intra/acuc/fred/guidelines.nci.asp>

Receiving and Quarantine Renovation

As you may know, the NCI-Frederick Receiving and Quarantine [R&Q] Animal Facility [located in Building 429] is

scheduled to undergo renovations beginning in early October 2006 with an anticipated completion date of March 2007. The primary functions of the R&Q facility will continue with minor interruptions during the renovation period.

For those facilities in Frederick that did not approve R&Q bypass, the quarantine will be staged in Building 550 before release to the designated facility. The Laboratory Animal Sciences Program [LASP] will continue quarantine operations in Building 429 for non-approved and modified-approved source animals. LASP does not anticipate any major delays in clearing non-approved source animals that do not require rederivation through R&Q.

The rederivation of strains to eliminate *Helicobacter sp.* will continue to be done in R&Q. However, strains that have been exposed to other infectious agents (MHV for example) will need to be outsourced due to space limitations (only a limited number of rooms will be available to house animals during the renovation). R&Q staff will discuss details regarding outsourcing, etc., with affected investigators in advance.

During the R&Q renovations, traditional MAP/RAP testing services will be limited and delays may be encountered. To avoid any delays, investigators are encouraged to use the Molecular Testing of Biological Materials Assay [see *MAP Testing Alternative PCR-Based Assay*].

LASP will keep investigators abreast of the renovation schedule and schedule changes as they occur. Please contact Dr. Jeanne Herring [herringj@mail.ncifcrf.gov] if you have any questions regarding the NCI-Frederick R&Q renovation.

Communication and Animal Research Projects

At the NCI-Frederick, a majority of animal-related research projects are conducted on behalf of the investigators by contract staff members. This relationship has provided benefits to both facility management and the investigative staff. However, it is important for all individuals [this includes investigators, post-docs, technicians, animal care staff, animal facility managers, etc.] involved in an animal-related research project to ensure that expectations and adverse effects are communicated in a timely and effective manner.

Investigators are ultimately responsible for the humane care and use of animals utilized under their approved Animal Study Proposals. Therefore, it is important for the investigative staff to outline their expectations for their research projects, to discuss potential complications, and to keep the staff involved in the progress and future planning of the research project. In addition, it is imperative that the facility staff notify the investigative staff of any adverse effect, complication, or issue in relation to their animal study. The facility staff is responsible for notifying the investigative staff **within 24 hours** of any animal-related adverse effect.

Fostering effective communication between all parties involved in the animal research projects will prove to be in everyone's best interest [most importantly the animals that are involved in the study].

MAP Testing Alternative – PCR-Based Assay

The Laboratory Animal Sciences Program previously announced that the Animal Health Diagnostic Laboratory [AHDL] has converted to a PCR-based testing assay [in lieu of classic MAP testing] that would expedite the turn around time for test results. The standard MAP testing takes

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approximately six weeks to receive results vs. the PCR-based assay that takes approximately five business days. The AHDL will determine which testing methodology will be utilized based on the submission request. MAP testing will still be utilized for specific sample submissions [i.e., primary tumor cell lines]. However, all applicable materials will automatically be sent to undergo PCR-based testing to expedite the process for its customers. **PLEASE NOTE ... the material preparation and submission is different for the PCR-based testing assays:**

For testing cultured cells by the PCR-based assay, two small cryovials of each sample with 1×10^7 cells per vial is needed. Cells may be in the form of a pellet or in growth media, freeze media or phosphate-buffered saline. For testing liquid samples (e.g., material extracted from cell culture) by the IMPACT, two small cryovials of each sample with 0.5 ml of sample/vial is required.

Requests can be submitted using the online request form at <http://web.ncifcrf.gov/rtp/lasp/intra/ahdl/MapDoc.asp>. If you have any questions regarding the new PCR-based assay or submission requirements, please contact the AHDL at 301-846-1134.

AHDL Animal Health Test Results

To facilitate animal health reporting for NCI Bethesda and Frederick animal holding locations, online health reports (by building) are available to investigators and animal users at the following Animal Health Diagnostic Laboratory website:

<http://web.ncifcrf.gov/rtp/lasp/intra/ahdl/reports.asp>.

NCI-Frederick Animal Facility Inspections

The ACUC recently completed the semiannual animal facility inspections for submission to the NCI-Frederick Associate Director. The ACUC is pleased to report that no major/significant deficiencies were found in accordance with the [Guidelines for Categorizing Significant Deficiencies and OLAW Reporting](#). In general, facilities were noted to be organized, clean, and well-managed. To ensure continued success, the ACUC would like to note that the following minor deficiencies were found in multiple areas and should be kept in mind when working in the animal facility:

- *Ensure the current Animal Study Proposal documents are organized and maintained in an accessible location*
- *Ensure that the current Animal Study Proposal number is listed on the cage card*
- *Ensure adherence to procedures and study endpoints that are listed in approved Animal Study Proposals*
- *Ensure that applicable bottles and containers are properly labeled, dated when opened, and disposed of in a timely manner*
- *Ensure that watch card posting, treatment initiation, Animal Health Report submission, and LAM veterinary notification timelines are fulfilled in accordance with policies and procedures*
- *Please be sure to store materials, boxes, etc., off of the floor*
- *Ensure that records for temperature, humidity, autoclaving, water flushing, chlorine content, etc., are kept current*
- *Ensure that euthanized animals placed in the refrigerator/freezer are appropriately labeled*

The ACUC would like to thank all participants and facility staff members for their cooperation during the inspections.

Transportation of Live Animals

Please keep in mind that when transporting live animals, the NCI-Frederick is required to comply with applicable Federal regulations and guidelines. When transporting animals from building to building at the NCI-Frederick, please ensure that you have covered this transport under Section L of your approved Animal Study Proposal [or subsequent modification]. All domestic [including transport to NIH Bethesda] and international live animal transports must be coordinated through LASP to ensure regulatory compliance.

We appreciate your cooperation with this request to ensure the well-being of animals utilized at the NCI-Frederick in compliance with the *Public Health Service Policy on the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*. If you have any questions or concerns regarding live animal transportation, please contact Ms. Sherry Stockman-Crummitt at 301-846-7539 or schells@ncifcrf.gov.

Summer Students Working with Live Animals

Investigators are reminded that any summer students working with live animals under their approved Animal Study Proposals must be added as authorized personnel by modification. In addition, the individuals are required to complete the NCI-Frederick Animal Care and Use Introductory Training Course. Please contact the [ACUC Office](#) if you have any questions or concerns regarding these requirements.

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