MEET THE UCUCA REGULATORY COMPLIANCE ASSOCIATES!

By Astrid Haakonstad
UCUCA Regulatory Compliance Associate

The UCUCA Office is pleased to announce that it now has four regulatory compliance associates and one senior compliance associate on staff to assist principal investigators and laboratory staff members with the animal care and use program here at the University of Michigan!

The senior compliance associate, Dawn O’Connor, conducts semi-annual facility inspections along with the Committee members, develops policies and guidelines along with the Clinical Management Team, and performs final administrative approval on animal use applications.

All of the principal investigators (PIs) are alphabetized by their last names, and each compliance associate is responsible for a section of the alphabet. For his or her group of PIs, each compliance associate will do the following:

- Answer any questions and provide assistance
- Administrative review of protocols and modifications
- Final approval of protocols and modifications
- Investigation of animal concerns
- Semi-annual rodent survival surgery inspections
- Yearly post-approval monitoring visits

Here are your regulatory compliance associates, by PI last name:

**A-F:** Astrid Haakonstad
**G-L:** Marie Cornell
**M-R:** Sara Waugh
**S-Z:** Matt Taylor

For mini-biographies of each of the four compliance associates, please turn to the next page!
REGULATORY COMPLIANCE
ASSOCIATE BIOGRAPHIES

ASTRID HAAKONSTAD (INVESTIGATORS A-F)

After graduating with a Bachelors of Arts degree in English from Michigan State University, I began my career in technical writing with a series of contract writing positions that led me to re-think my career. After being accepted into the veterinary technology program at Wayne County Community College, I set out looking for a job involving animals and ended up in the UCUCA office as a temporary office assistant. I was hired in permanently, became an administrative assistant, graduated from vet tech school, passed the board exams, and became a Licensed Veterinary Technician. All of that combined knowledge, from school and from working in the UCUCA Office, has given me valuable insight when performing the job I have now as a regulatory compliance associate. I enjoy being able to work in a field that involves both animals and science, and I also enjoy being able to do a little writing and editing on the side with The Backbone newsletter and the UCUCA website as well. In my free time, if I am not out trying to take pictures of ghosts, you may find me playing with my foxhound mix, Harry, scrapbooking with friends, or reading anything I can get my hands on.

MARIE CORNELL (INVESTIGATORS G-L)

Greetings All!
I am very excited to be a part of the new and innovative version of the UCUCA office! After growing up on a farm in southeast Michigan, I obtained my Bachelors of Science degree in Animal Science from Michigan State University. I had spent nearly ten years working in private veterinary practice with large and small animals. I then spent one year as a study monitor/husbandry manager for Esperion Therapeutics, A Pfizer Inc. Company, before coming to the University of Michigan. I worked in the Unit for Laboratory Animal Medicine for one year before coming to the UCUCA office in the spring of 2008. In my free time I enjoy spending time with my family including my great dane, Kallie, riding and showing my horse, Rain, and any other outdoor activity.

SARA WAUGH (INVESTIGATORS M-R)

I graduated with a Bachelors of Science degree in Wildlife Management from Ohio State University. I began working for the University of Michigan’s Unit for Laboratory Animal Medicine (ULAM) as an animal husbandry technician. Because my education was focused in the School of Natural Resources, this was my introduction to the laboratory animal research world. While in ULAM, I worked with several laboratory animal species and earned my Assistant Laboratory Animal Technician (ALAT) certification through the American Association of Laboratory Animal Science (AALAS). I began working in the research side of the laboratory animal world when I joined the Department of Pediatrics-Nephrology as a research assistant in Dr. David Kershaw’s laboratory. About a year and a half later, I became a member of Dr. Mark Opp’s laboratory in the Department of Anesthesiology as a research laboratory specialist associate. After four years in the research laboratories, I shifted in a new direction when I accepted a position with the UCUCA office as a regulatory compliance associate this past April. I believe my experiences at the University of Michigan have provided me with invaluable insight into the animal research community and the UCUCA Office has given me the opportunity to promote the humane and responsible use of animals in research and teaching.

Continued on next page...
MATT TAYLOR (INVESTIGATORS S-Z)

I graduated from Michigan State University with a Bachelors of Science in Zoology. I recently returned to the University of Michigan from Northwestern University in Chicago where I was the Assistant Manager for Quality Assurance and Training. I worked with investigators and their staff to train on procedures and to acclimate personnel to the laboratory animal field. I also did a lot of classroom training for all aspects of working with and around animals. I have worked in both the public and private sectors as an animal technician working with a variety of species. I am a Certified Manager of Animal Resources as well as a Registered Laboratory Animal Technologist. I am an active member of AALAS, MI-AALAS, LAWTE, LAMA, and PRIMR. One of the things I look forward to in this position is being able to give more personalized attention for investigators and their staff. A stigma that plagues IACUC offices across the nation is that they are the “police” and they “are holding up research”. With the newly acquired compliance staff, we will do everything we can to help you move forward in your discoveries all while ensuring quality science.

UPDAtED POLICIES AND GUIDELINES

By Astrid Haakonstad
UCUCA Regulatory Compliance Associate

Note: The following policies and guidelines are updated and available for download from the UCUCA website (www.ucuca.umich.edu).

+ Guidelines for Prevention of Fires During Animal Use Procedures (new document)
+ Anesthesia & analgesia guidelines for All Species
+ Instructions for Creating Requests for Exceptions
+ UCUCA Policy on Analgesic Use in Animals Undergoing Surgery: Please note that this document has undergone major changes and may require an amendment to your approved protocol. The UCUCA office may contact you regarding the changes to this policy.

Please don’t hesitate to contact the UCUCA office at 763-8028 or ucuca.office@umich.edu if you have any questions about the updated policies and guidelines.
SOMETHING NEW FOR RESEARCH:
ANIMAL BIOSAFETY LEVEL 3 FACILITY

By Bob Dysko
Associate Director, ULAM

For the past two years, a complicated renovation project has been underway on the 3rd floor of the Animal Research Facility (ARF), ULAM’s home building. In an effort to improve the ability of university scientists to study infectious diseases, UM has been creating the first Animal Biosafety Level 3 (ABSL-3) facility at the institution.

For those of you not familiar with research on infectious agents, such as viruses and bacteria, the standards for performing such research safely are outlined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in a handbook entitled “Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories.” The 5th edition of the BMBL (as we usually refer to it) was recently approved and is available on-line. The BMBL divides procedural and facility safety criteria into four levels based on the severity of the disease that could result from exposure to the pathogen in question. For many years, scientists at UM have been able to work with Level 1 and 2 pathogens on campus, including the study of these agents in laboratory animals. However, the requirements to study Level 3 pathogens have been limited to non-animal use in a few select laboratories. With the eventual opening of this facility, researchers will be able to study Level 3 pathogens in small laboratory animals (essentially rodents) in accordance with the standards and guidelines provided by the CDC/NIH.

The new facility was funded through a cooperative effort between the following programs: the Office of the Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies (Medical School), the Department of Microbiology and Immunology, the Unit for Laboratory Animal Medicine, the Endowment for the Basic Sciences (EBS), and the School of Public Health. The renovation was also funded in part by a grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services. The facility comprises approximately 1100 square feet and contains two animal housing rooms and two associated wet laboratories. The facility also features a pass-through autoclave, personnel shower, and door security and interlock system. The ventilation system, which is critical for such an operation, consists of two redundant HEPA-filtered exhaust fans supported by an emergency generator. The facility was designed by Jackie Jeffery of Architectural and Engineering Services and Mark Sedmak of Medical School Facilities Management, with consultant services from Ted Traum at World BioHazTec Corporation (Rio Rancho, New Mexico) and the engineering firm of Peter Basso Associates (Troy, Michigan). Construction was performed by Krull Construction (Ann Arbor, Michigan) and managed by Tim Pearsall of UM Construction Management.

Scientists who wish to utilize this facility should contact Lesley Colby, DVM, MS, DACLAM (lacolby@umich.edu), ABSL-3 Facility Director.

Download The Backbone!

http://www.ucuca.umich.edu/backbone.htm
NEW ULAM TRAINING CORE

By Melissa Dyson
ULAM Faculty Veterinarian

There have recently been some changes in how training in animal care and use will be provided for research staff at the University of Michigan. This training is based on regulatory requirements (PHS Policy and the Animal Welfare Act) and the commitment of the University of Michigan to ensure that animal research performed here is done in the most humane and effective manner. As the animal research program has grown over the years, it has become necessary to increase staff and develop new ways of providing support to animal users. [For example, the UCUCA office had only one trainer to serve the needs of the research community (4000 people), which is well below that at peer medical schools.] ULAM also has internal training needs, much of which overlap with the training provided by UCUCA. In order to improve the utilization of training resources, increase the coordination of training activities and messages, and reduce redundancy in training, all of the training provided by ULAM and UCUCA was combined into a centralized unit. To this end, the ULAM Training Core has been created. By having trainers from each area work together we plan to improve the consistency and availability of courses offered to all of our customers. The Training Core offices and wet lab have moved from the North Ingalls Building (NIB) to the Life Sciences Building (LSI). Training will be coordinated through the Training Core rather than the UCUCA office.

Training Core Offices: 1016 LSI
Phone: 763-8039
Email: ulamtraining@umich.edu
Website: http://www.ulam.umich.edu/Training.htm

Staff Structure:
Faculty Supervisor: Melissa Dyson, DVM, MS, DACLAM
Research staff training specialist: Melissa Rogers, LVT
Clinical training specialist: Lori Roberts, LVT, LAT
Husbandry training specialist: Daphne Molnar BS, CMAR, RLATg
Husbandry trainers: Chris Mannor, BS, LAT and Shelly Yakich, LAT
Administrative Assistant: Stella Webb

ESIRIUS UPDATE

By Jessica Durkin
UCUCA Manager

In May, the UCUCA office upgraded to a new version of eSirius, the online animal use application system and has unfortunately experienced some problems with the new version. The office appreciates your patience as we work with the vendor to resolve these issues. We are communicating with the vendor daily and feel we are near a final resolution and back to normal operations. Please do not hesitate to contact the UCUCA office if you are having any trouble with eSirius or your protocol. The office staff is happy to assist you anyway we can. Please email ucuca.office@umich.edu or call 763-8028.
ULAM
LEAN THINKING PROJECT

By Karen Rogers
ULAM Faculty Veterinarian

The Unit for Laboratory Animal Medicine (ULAM) has started a “Lean Thinking Project” that involves the “Delivery of Veterinary Services to Rodents at the University of Michigan.” We feel that we must employ the concepts of lean thinking to deliver quality veterinary care to research animals to deal with the expansive growth rate of animals that has and will occur in the future. For example, since 1995 we have nearly quadrupled our animal numbers and doubled our animal space with minimal increases in ULAM veterinary personnel.

Areas that we have identified as needing modifications include the clinical case reporting system along with identification and notification of laboratory personnel about animal health issues, communication with the laboratories about options for treatment, identification of laboratory personnel who can make medical decisions about research animals, and effective and efficient communication systems that work in animal facilities. Ideas for improvements to these areas will be made through a series of “experiments” or “pilot projects” where ideas are tested in the field. We have selected the areas mentioned above to begin work because we felt that these were important areas with issues that needed to be addressed. We realize that there are other areas that will need to be addressed in the future. As we adapt to this new operational model, please feel free to comment on how we’re doing and make suggestions for other areas or issues we may need to address. Current information about ULAM Lean Team project is posted on CTools with a link from our website (www.ulam.umich.edu). For further information about our team efforts or progress, please contact Dr. Karen Rogers (936-1701) or Dr. Howard Rush (936-3805).

THE FUNNY BONE
Silly Halloween jokes collected from the internet

Why do mummies have trouble keeping friends?  
...They’re so wrapped up in themselves!

What type of dog do vampires like the best?  
...Bloodhounds!

What kind of street does a ghost prefer to haunt?  
...A dead end!

What’s the ratio of a pumpkin’s circumference to its diameter?  
...Pumpkin Pi!

Why don’t mummies take vacations?  
...They’re afraid they’ll relax and unwind!

Who are some of the werewolves’ cousins?  
...The whowolves, the whatwolves, and the whenwolves!

What can’t you give the headless horseman?  
...A headache!
NEED HELP WITH YOUR ESIRIUS PASSWORD?
If you forgot your eSirius password, or need to have it reset, please contact Julie Laundree by email (julesgi@umich.edu) or by phone (763-8028) and she will be happy to assist you!

REMINDER: CHECK YOUR CAGE CARDS!
Before working with any animal, please ensure that you have the right cage and the right animal by checking the cage card and/or tag on that animal. Make sure that the principal investigator and protocol number are both correct, and also ensure that the expiration date is still current. This will ensure that you do not use another investigator’s animals by mistake, and that your protocol remains in compliance. If you see a cage card that looks like it has incorrect information, or a cage that is mislabeled, please notify your husbandry supervisor as soon as possible, or if you have questions you can also contact the UCUCA office at 763-8028 or ucuca.office@umich.edu.

ANIMAL CONCERN HOTLINE
Animal Concern Hotline Number:
(734) 763-8028
Animal Concern Online Submission Form:
http://www.ucuca.umich.edu/complaint.htm

IF YOU SEE ANYTHING THAT TROUBLES YOU, PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO CALL OR SUBMIT AN ANONYMOUS REPORT ONLINE!

REMINDER: LAB PERSONNEL IN PROTOCOLS
Do you have new personnel in your lab? Make sure to add them to your protocol if they will be using animals; EVEN IF THEY ARE TEMPORARY OR SUMMER PERSONNEL! Anyone who uses animals at any time under a UCUCA-approved protocol MUST be listed on that protocol.
Please complete and return to the University Committee on Use and Care of Animals (UCUCA):
Name ___________________________ Department ___________________________
Telephone ______________________ Fax __________________________ Address ___________________________
Principal Investigator ___________________________
E-mail Address ___________________________
Topics/areas of interest you would like to see explored in future issues: ___________________________

University of Michigan
University Committee on Use and Care of Animals (UCUCA)
018 ARF SPC 5614
763-8028 (Telephone) 936-3234 (FAX)
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Add my name to your mailing list.
Remove my name from your mailing list.