Members Present:  AB  GS  JS  MB
      BE  GW  JT  MRB
      CC  JFI  KG  MK
      SF

Members Absent:  AP  DM  JPVH  GL
      AW

Opening Business
  • The Floor was opened for public comment at 2:31 pm.
  • The IACUC Chair called the meeting to order at 2:38 pm.

Confirmation of a Quorum and Announcement
  • Quorum was confirmed by JS.

Approval of the IACUC Meeting Minutes
  • The IACUC Chair called for the approval of the March meeting minutes.
    Motion was made and seconded: to approve the minutes as written.
    Further Discussion: none
    Vote: Approved with 13 members voting in favor, 0 against and 0 abstentions.

Benefit Story

This month’s Benefit Story comes from Friday Harbor Labs which was a critical participant in a nation-wide collaboration that recently created a huge free, online collection of 3-dimensional scans of vertebrate animals from museum collections across the United States. This openVertebrate Thematic Collections Network has posted a searchable database of more than 10,000 specimens available to anyone, including scientists, teachers, students and curious members of the public. In addition to their scientific value, these scans are also amazingly beautiful, and just plain cool, and I think you will enjoy this brief video put together by openVertebrate showcasing their digital collection.


https://youtu.be/1VqLsNMIPmc

Attending Veterinarian’s Report
I have checked with the leadership at all sites and have no adverse events ready to report to the committee at this time.

**Protocol Monitoring**

We currently have 26 protocols on enhanced veterinary monitoring. Of these 26 protocols, 17 of them were placed on monitoring proactively at the time of procedure approval to provide enhanced support during development or implementation of complex procedures. The other 9 were placed on monitoring following an unexpected outcome. Of the 26 protocols, 9 of them are currently performing the procedure for which they are on monitoring. All PIs on monitoring continue to work with their veterinary monitor.

**OAW Director’s Report**

The IACUC Metrics are in the meeting folder.

There are no non compliances to report this month.

**Response to Letters**

4290-01 – At the March meeting a protocol noncompliance was reported in which, following approved surgery on a rat, a wound clip fell off and the surgeon replaced the wound clip without consulting with veterinary services. The protocol was not approved at that time for a surgical repair procedure. The IACUC voted to send a letter of counsel asking the group specifically to clarify the thought process behind their decisions, and to explain the criteria that will be used in the future to determine what will be reported to veterinary services. In their response, the PI explained that the surgery procedure was borrowed from another PI that they were collaborating with, and that PI’s protocol was approved for a wound clip repair, which did not get incorporated into their own protocol when the surgery procedure was added. Their surgeon was trained by someone from that collaborating PI’s group, and that individual also assisted with the wound repair. The PI indicated that they have discussed this issue with the surgeon in their group, and in addition to adding the wound clip repair to the protocol, they will also alert vet services to any post-operative issues. Additionally, the PI will review post-operative records with the surgeon to determine if any refinements are needed, and all personnel that work with animals will need to acknowledge that they have read the protocol prior to starting any experiments.

4375-01 – At the March meeting, a protocol noncompliance was reported involving the misdosing of mice with buprenorphine HCl rather than buprenorphine SR following surgery due to confusion between these two drugs. At the time of the report several corrective actions had already been taken by the group, including creation of a surgery checklist and revised training procedures to ensure competency in both reviewing the protocol and providing surgical and post-surgical care. The IACUC voted to send the PI and the surgeon a letter of counsel asking the group to confirm the corrective actions, and also asking for any feedback regarding what sort of information, guidance or suggestions could be provided to UW investigators to clarify the difference between analgesics. In their response, the PI expressed sincere regret for the mistake, and confirmed the corrective actions that have already been reported. Additionally, the PI suggested that it may be helpful to add more content to annual trainings to explain the difference between formulations of buprenorphine, or post a related hand-out. They also suggested that spelling out the abbreviations in all contexts could be helpful, specifically SR = sustained release. This information could
be sent to anyone with buprenorphine approved on their protocol.

**4317-01** – At the March meeting, a protocol noncompliance was reported involving administration of nanoparticles via an unapproved route. Specifically, the nanoparticles were administered IV via the tail vein, which resulted in tail necrosis in one cohort. The cause of tail necrosis was not clear, with the only difference between cohorts being the vehicle. Several corrective actions had been pro-actively taken by the PI prior to reporting to the committee, including reviewing the protocol with all lab members, and submitting an amendment to add the IV route. The IACUC voted to send a letter of counsel, specifically asking the PI how they will ensure that the adverse effect does not happen again. In their response, the PI expressed regret for the non-compliant activities, and thanked the committee for their understanding and for working with them through this unfortunate incident. In addition to confirming the corrective actions that have already been reported, the PI indicated that they discussed the incident with the lab that made the particles, confirmed the purity, and identified no inciting factors. The PI explained that “In next round of studies proposed under the IACUC modification, we intend to use PBS to determine if we get a safe and immunogenic outcome for the particles. If we obtain acceptable safety and immunogenicity in PBS..., we will submit additional experiments under a subsequent IACUC modification to consider optimization of the vehicle for buffers that might further improve particle stability. Such later formulation-focused studies could include vehicle-only controls.” Based on the characteristics of these nanoparticles, and the group’s experience administering other nanoparticle vaccines IV and IM without incident, they expect that these protein nanoparticles should be well tolerated.

**Protocol**

**Standard Operation Procedures / Policies / Guidelines**

15 standard procedures for analgesics in mice, for euthanasia in mice and rats, and for anesthesia and bone marrow aspiration in non-human primates

Motion was made and seconded: to approve the standard procedures as written.

Further Discussion: none

Vote: Approved with 13 members voting in favor, 0 against, 0 abstentions.

**IACUC Training**

Presentation and discussion about provision of heat support for rodents under anesthesia.

**Closing Business:**

The Meeting was brought to a close at 3:19 pm.