TO: Dr. Eric Pani, Institutional Official as per PHS assurance #A3646-01
Dr. Leonard Clark, Director, Office of Sponsored Programs and Research

FROM: Sharon A. Meyer, Ph.D.
Chair, IACUC

SUBJECT: Semiannual Evaluation of Animal Care and Use Program and Inspection of Facilities

DATE: November 13, 2015

This represents the semiannual report of the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) to the Institutional Official, as required by the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, as a condition of this institution’s Animal Welfare Assurance with the Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW), and the Animal Welfare Act and USDA Animal Welfare Regulations, as applicable.

Review of Animal Care and Use Program

The IACUC conducted its semiannual evaluation of the institution’s animal care and use program on October 12, 2015 using the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (Guide), 8th edition, and as applicable, 9 CFR Chapter I, 2.31. No deficiencies, significant or minor, were identified. All aspects of the program are consistent with PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, 2015 revision; the Guide, 8th ed.; and applicable Animal Welfare Act regulations.

Two protocols previously approved with a departure from the Guide remain active. These were approved with departure from the provision of the 8th ed of the Guide that humane endpoints be employed to avoid unrelieved pain or distress. As per p. 27 of the Guide, IACUC is obliged to weigh the objectives of the study against potential animal welfare concerns (http://www.nap.edu/openbook.php?record_id=12910&page=27). IACUC concluded that the scientific value of the study, as described to a meeting of the full committee by the project director and in the ULM Animal Welfare Assurance form, justified use of experimental endpoints, specifically morbidity and lethality, without intervention of euthanasia.

Two animal welfare assurance proposals were approved in this cycle by full committee review at the October meeting. Also, three protocols were approved in the interval between the Apr and Oct meeting by designated member review [DMR]. Protocols for DMR were emailed to the full committee, which were allowed a 1-wk preview period for any IACUC member for comment. There are currently 37 protocols in effect. An audit of all active protocols will take place prior to the semiannual meeting in April, 2016.

Inspection of Animal Facilities
The IACUC inspected the Bienville animal facilities on Apr 20, 2015 using the 8th ed. of Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (Guide), and as applicable, 9 CFR Chapter I, 2.31. Facility inspection was aided by use of the OLAW checklist. No deficiencies were noted.

Departures from the Guide

Departures from the Guide, 8th ed., continue in protocols 13APR-HMM-01, “Tissue Repair Initiated with the Introduction of Different Toxicants in Mice” and 13APR-HMM-02, “Tissue Repair Initiated with the Introduction of Different Toxicants in Rats”. These protocols employ non-humane, experimental endpoints that were approved by IACUC based upon scientific justification of their value on 4/3/13. Termination dates are 12/31/2016 for both.

Minority Views:

No minority views were offered in objection or to modify this report.

Signatures:

Names of IACUC members

Dr. Sharon A. Meyer, Chair
Dr. John Carr
Dr. Keith Jackson
Dr. Seetharama Jois
Mr. Steve Tolson
Dr. Brent White
Dr. Benny L. Blaylock, ex officio
Mr. Coty Lee, ex officio

Signatures