Dear Animal Users,

I hope you’ve made it smoothly through October – traditionally the busiest month of the academic year! We’ve been busy as well, and I would like to update you on some items that impact research, animal care and use, and IACUC protocol processing at UMD.

1. PIs working with infectious agents
   In order to facilitate proper and immediate response in an emergency situation, the IBC and IACUC require PIs to place copies of the relevant Agent Specific Training Form(s) in any room housing infected animals, beginning November 1st, 2015. The intent is to provide personnel with an immediate resource that can be retrieved and taken with the staff member should medical evaluation or treatment be necessary. Providing such documentation does not replace the formal training from the Department of Environmental Safety on the proper containment and handling of infectious agents, or the agent-specific training provided by the PI. Also beginning in November, the IACUC requires all new protocol applications with IBC registration(s) for work with infectious agents affecting humans to upload the agent specific training form(s) (along with the approval) with the IACUC protocol at the time of submission. For more information, please contact Sherry Bohn or Pam Lanford.

2. Renewals – Get ‘em in early!
   All triennial renewals must undergo a de novo review (just like entirely new projects). Consequently, it is prudent to allow at least 60 days to get a renewal through and approved. While our processing times have been shrinking, waiting until a month or less from the expiration date is not a good idea. What happens if your protocol expires and you have ongoing research? Animals on research protocols should be moved immediately to the holding protocol established by the AV, Doug Powell. It is important to note that, until a new research protocol is approved, no research manipulations may be performed, and no PHS funds should be used to pay for the care of the animals.

3. New forms – New online ASP form
   On November 20th, we will have finally completed our protocol form revisions process! The last step will be updates to our online (“wizard”-driven) ASP form. According to IRBnet, you will still be able to clone previous ASP forms, since the old information will be brought into the new version. The most notable change is that we have done away with Section H, since it was usually redundant with Section E. Please note that we no longer accept submissions on the old forms – please see Forms and Templates in IRBnet for the new versions.

4. New Guidance from OLAW to reduce admin burden
   Yes, you read that correctly. Early last year, OLAW issued new guidance that allows IACUCs to establish policies/set reference documents so that certain
types of protocol changes can be handled administratively, rather than go through the DMR or FCR process as we have previously done. We are pleased to say that we've been able to implement three of these so far:

1. **Changes in euthanasia**
2. **Changes in anesthesia**
3. **Changes in animal numbers**

These can now be handled through **Veterinary Verification and Consultation (VVC)**. PI should submit amendments per usual through IRBnet, and the AV and IACUC office will review and determine whether the specific request can be handled in this way. If so, and with AV verification, the amendment can be handled administratively, which should mean faster turn around times on these kinds of changes. (As with any submission, the IACUC is notified and allowed the opportunity to call the submission to full committee.)

We hope to implement additional types of changes in the near future, which will allow an even greater number of amendments to be processed in this way. Stay tuned!