Guidelines for IACUC Oversight of Satellite Facilities, Laboratories and Other Activity Areas

Background:

The Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (PHS Policy, 1985) and the Animal Welfare Regulations (AWR, 1966) stipulate that the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee must inspect, at least once every six months, all animal activity areas including animal facilities, transport vehicles, “study areas” (as defined by the AWR) and “satellite facilities” (as defined by PHS). Animal activity areas outside of those defined above should also be inspected by the committee at regular intervals (i.e., annually). This document is intended to clarify the inspection schedule as currently implemented at the University of Maryland, College Park (UMD), with the objective of streamlining inspection scheduling and implementation.

Policy:

1. The following areas must be inspected semianually by at least two members of the IACUC:
   - Central and PI-operated animal facilities;
   - Animal activity areas where live animals are held for more than 12 hours. These areas are reviewed by the Attending Veterinarian and approved by the IACUC;
   - Animal activity areas (including laboratories) where animals undergo procedures under general anesthesia and recover, or are surgically manipulated while under general anesthesia and then euthanized. (Examples include bleeding under general anesthesia, perfusion.)

2. The following areas must be inspected at least annually by at least one member of the IACUC:
   - Animal activity areas (including laboratories) where live animals are held for less than 12 hours. These areas are reviewed by the Attending Veterinarian and approved by the IACUC; and
   - Animal activity areas (including laboratories) where animals are euthanized.

3. The following do not require inspections by the IACUC:
   - Areas where carcasses or tissues are manipulated or stored, i.e. animals are euthanized elsewhere.

Methodology:

The IACUC procedures for conducting semiannual facility inspections are as follows: Animal activity areas are visited and reviewed on the schedule defined above, generally in April and October. While the IACUC may visit any animal activity site at any time, the semi-annual inspections are normally scheduled in advance with the facility manager or PI, so that personnel
are on hand to address questions or concerns during the inspection. All IACUC members participate in the inspection process and may be accompanied by a member of Environmental Safety (ESSR pka DES) and/or Facilities Management. Training and enrollment in Occupational Health will be reviewed for all users.

The UMD IACUC uses the following reference documents as standards for evaluation:

- The *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* (NRC, 2011)
- The *Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Research and Teaching* (Ag Guide) (FASS, 2010)
- *Guidelines for the Care and Use of Mammals in Neuroscience and Behavioral Research* (NRC, 2003)
- The *AVMA Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals* (2013)

The IACUC also references appropriate taxon guidelines and recommendations for aquatics and wild species.