

# Monthly newsletter



## August 2013

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## Notices and news

### 2013 Animal Ethics Seminar: for Animal Ethics Committees and Researchers



A seminar for members of Animal Ethics Committee members and their Executive Officers, and animal researchers is to be held at the Australian Catholic University, North Sydney, on 2 October 2013.

The seminar is being run by the Animal Research Review Panel in conjunction with the Animal Welfare Unit, Biosecurity NSW.

The programme includes a core section which will look at the value of translational research versus basic science. We are pleased to have secured the services of Professor S Bruce Downton and Professor Mark Connor, both of Macquarie University, to present the “opposing views” on this topic.

Other presentations will range from the role of Animal Welfare Officers to the welfare of vertebrate pests.

We are again grateful to the Australian Catholic University for providing its excellent facilities for this seminar.

Registration for this event will open closer to the date of the seminar. The programme, registration form and tax invoice can be found [here](#).

## The Benefits of World's Best Practice in Laboratory Animal Care

The Central Animal Facility is pleased to advise that they have the opportunity to have two international speakers visit them on the 9th September (Monday).

- Dr Montip Gettayacamin from the Association for the Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care (AAALAC)
- Dr Ralph Bunte a board certified veterinary pathologist currently at NUS-Duke Singapore.

Both have agreed to talk to animal technicians, postgraduate students and academics.

Dr Gettayacamin will talk about the AAALAC accreditation process and the significance of accreditation on animal facilities for Australian academics who are contemplating US collaboration or NIH funding. Dr Bunte will discuss several unique mouse pathologies and the significance of performing proper necropsies for good research. Also present will be Mr Bob Bean from Transnetyx who will be able to discuss the services offered for automated rapid turnaround mouse PCR.

**Location** will be: Seminar Room Level 1 ASAM

**Time** : 1 pm to 5 pm. Afternoon refreshments will be provided

Please advise Christine Sutter Central Animal Facility Manager if you will be attending by COB Friday 30 August.

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## DAFF Review of Mouse Embryo Importation - Hantavirus

The review of mouse embryo importation policy conducted by veterinarians at Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry has been finalised. The policy has been amended, removing the need for Hantavirus testing of embryo donors prior to import. With more and more mouse strains becoming available, this is great news for the Australian research community.

<http://www.daff.gov.au/ba/reviews/final-animal/hanta-virus-review/ba2013-19-policy-review-hantavirus>

## Tips and Hints for your applications

- Did you know..... some journals will refuse to publish results from experimental animal research if it was possible to obtain the same results utilising an available replacement technique? Section 2.3 of the Macquarie University AEC Application Forms provides researchers the opportunity to document their review of potential replacement techniques with particular reference to the research proposal.
- *A Guide to the Behavior & Enrichment of Laboratory Rodents* is now available from Charles River. This is a resource for those looking to implement or enhance an existing behavioural husbandry and enrichment program.  
[http://www.criver.com/en-US/NewsEvents/WhatsNew/Pages/Guide\\_Behavior\\_Enrichment\\_Laboratory\\_Rodents.aspx](http://www.criver.com/en-US/NewsEvents/WhatsNew/Pages/Guide_Behavior_Enrichment_Laboratory_Rodents.aspx)

## Important AEC Information

### **Electronic signatures**

All researchers should note that from this point on, the use of electronic signatures on AEC documentation will only be accepted if submitted from the personal email account of the signatory. In cases where signed documents are sent to the AEC on behalf of another person (e.g. an Associate Investigator on behalf of a Primary Investigator) the AEC requests that the documentation bears an original signature.

### **Amendments Requesting an Extension of Time**

Often extensions are requested at times when annual Progress or Final Reports are due. To ensure that the legislated obligation of annual reporting is met in lieu of extensions, the AEC requests the concurrent submission of a Progress Report for all applications for extensions of time. In addition to satisfying this legal requirement, the Committee believes that an accompanying Progress Report will help to provide a level of detail to facilitate assessment of the application to extend.

### **Review of Animal Monitoring Records**

In the coming weeks, the AWO will be embarking on an institution-wide review of animal monitoring and record-keeping. The aim of this review is to highlight areas where improvements can be made in the documentation of our diligence to animal monitoring and care. Record-keeping is integral to the process of review. Likewise, review is the cornerstone on which improvement is built.

### **Reminders – (Over)due Reports**

The need to tighten the submission of timely reports stems foremost from a legislative requirement. However, when consideration is given to the time and effort required to track and chase-up overdue reports, there is also an administrative advantage to ensuring reports are submitted on time. Currently, ARA expiry dates correlate with timing related to the requirement for report submission to the AEC. As such, to promote timely submission of all Reports, the following email will now be automatically sent:

- a) on the day of ARA expiry for overdue Progress Reports
- b) 1 month after expiry of ARA for overdue Final Reports

*"The Animal Ethics Committee has not received the Progress for ARA 20\*\*/0\*\*. The AEC requests immediate submission of the outstanding report. In the event the report is not received within 1 week of this notice, all work pertaining to the above referenced ARA will be required to cease immediately until the report is submitted and considered by the full AEC. We remind you that the provision of such reports is legislated and is a requirement under the Australian Code for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes (8<sup>th</sup> Edition)."*

It is envisaged that this will assist the University in satisfying its legal requirement relating to the submission of reports.

### **PM Reports**

Dr Tony James has indicated his availability to perform Post Mortems. If researchers are utilizing his services, they are reminded that it is still a requirement for them to submit an Unexpected Adverse Event to the AWO within 72h of the event. Tony has indicated he will be able to provide a gross necropsy report to accompany the UAE within this timeframe.

## Training opportunities this month

Please contact the AWO for any training requirements.

New Researcher training has been incorporated into the CAF Induction process. The format of this training will be refined over the next few months to ultimately deliver the best possible service to new researchers or any researcher looking to refresh their skills.

## Animal Ethics Calendar

### Next Application submission deadline date 2013

Monday 30 September 2013

### Next Animal Ethics Committee Meeting date 2013

Thursday 19 September 2013 (Submissions closed)

## Contributions

If you would like to contribute to the Animal Ethics monthly newsletter, kindly email that content for the next month's newsletter.

Should you have any queries regarding your research, please do not hesitate to contact me:

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***Alternatively, for more information about AEC policies, procedures, forms and ethical clearance requirements, please go to our webpage at [http://www.research.mq.edu.au/for/researchers/how\\_to\\_obtain\\_ethics\\_approval/animal\\_ethics](http://www.research.mq.edu.au/for/researchers/how_to_obtain_ethics_approval/animal_ethics)***