DLAR News Bulletin
Summer- 2008

New Director's Note

An informational bulletin may be delivered to your mailbox periodically, or posted in the animal facilities. We wish to advise you of activities in the Department of Laboratory Animal Resources (DLAR—formerly DLAM) that may be relevant to your work. One purpose is to increase your knowledge of available resources in this department so that you can use them to support your research. It can also be a forum for introducing new information and equipment in laboratory animal technology that may improve the efficiency and ease in performing routine procedures, such as anesthesia, sample collection, bio-monitoring, etc.

DLAR Functions

DLAR has several key functions that relate to the UT research process. Our goal is to enhance the quality and effectiveness of investigators' research efforts by providing collegial, capable, experienced support for research faculty and their staff.

That support includes optimizing animal acquisitions, disease control, husbandry consistency, defined animal health conditions and surgical skills. We are seeking advanced cage technology and specialized equipment (e.g., biosafety cabinets, micro-isolator housing, anesthetic monitors, anesthetic delivery systems).

Part of this process involves consultation and training. If your lab needs assistance in creating or revising an animal use protocol, we are available to work with you to review your surgical, anesthetic, analgesic, monitoring and sample collection procedures. We also can advise you on animal model selection, animal vendors, post-procedural care, nutrition and colony management.
Because of our cross-connections between different research groups, DLAR staff can often be a resource for equipment availability and knowledge sharing.

**Training and Information**

If you are new to the animal care regulatory process, we can help provide a context that will assist you in meeting the requirements of the NIH, USDA and our accrediting organization.

Our department is gathering new information on teaching aids for research staff on topics ranging from animal welfare and the regulatory environment to surgical, behavioral and procedural standards. The current video programs available will be updated.

Our goal is to provide more and newer resources to train both students and staff, and, where possible, to utilize intranet capabilities to make training more accessible and convenient. We are also available to provide hands-on training in wet lab settings and in pilot studies.

**Higher Research Standards**

Inherent in the complexities of research are a variety of compliance issues. Our fundamental position is that quality animal care is an integral part of quality research. For over twenty years the Health Science Campus facilities have been accredited by the Association for the Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care (AAALAC), an international, non-governmental organization that sets high standards of animal care and works with research institutions to maintain meaningful, measurable standards of quality assurance.

We believe that this standard of quality provides a platform for higher academic research achievement, and creates a competitive, attractive environment for the recruitment of the best faculty and staff available. We also believe that, indirectly, the reputation associated with being a long-standing, accredited facility makes UT more competitive for research support—both private and governmental.

As the new director of DLAR and the university's attending veterinarian, I look forward to working with research faculty and staff to support their important goals. Merle Heineke, Associate Director, Kathy Goans, Operations Manager and I can be reached through department secretary Linda Wagner at 419-383-4310.

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Director, DLAR