

Monthly newsletter



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Notices and news

New JoVE Videos of Interest

There are many exciting new videos on JoVE this month.

1. Researchers using rodents may be interested in the video of intranasal administration of therapeutics in mice

http://www.jove.com/video/4440/intranasal-administration-of-cns-therapeutics-to-awake-mice?utm_medium=email&utm_source=newsletter&utm_campaign=weekly_20130411

2. This month we provide a link to a fish electro-physiology video which may be of interest to those involved with the fantastic new Zebrafish Facility at ASAM and the current electrophysiology research groups - enjoy!

http://www.jove.com/video/50312/recording-electrical-activity-from-identified-neurons-intact-brain?utm_medium=email&utm_source=newsletter&utm_campaign=weekly_20130502

Letter from the AEC Chair

MACQUARIE
UNIVERSITY



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13th May 2013

Dear Researchers,

I am writing to you as someone named on an Animal Research Authority at Macquarie University. I have recently taken over as Chair from the esteemed Michael Gillings. I am a Pharmacologist at ASAM, and use animals in my research on trigeminal pain and drug treatments. I am familiar with the potential (and actual) frustrations of dealing with AEC's, but have also Chaired the AEC at Royal North Shore Hospital, and I will try and apply both perspectives to the role.

Research involving animals is a privilege, but it is work supported by most of the community, and to a large degree we are given freedom to do what we need to do to answer our scientific questions and achieve our educational outcomes – provided we stick to the rules the community have set for us through the Animal Research Act and the NHMRC Code of Practice. To me these boil down to adequate justification for what we want to do, and making sure we stick to what we say we will do when our work is approved. To that end, I would like to canvass areas where I think some clarification will help in smoother approvals, or areas where there have been a few less than happy experiences at Macquarie recently.

Disease Models: There are many animal models of disease described, and often researchers wish to introduce new models to their work. In order to help the AEC make an informed decision about the new model, we would appreciate the inclusion of literature references describing in detail the technique that the investigator is proposing to use. Ideally, the experimental protocol will be outlined in some depth in the reference. If the reference is readily available then please just include the citation, if it is old or more obscure, we would appreciate inclusion of the actual paper with the submission.

Drugs: The administration of drugs to an animal is a procedure. Details of dose and route of administration should be provided, where possible references to studies that have used the drugs in similar types of experiments should be included to provide support for the dose and choice of agent. If a drug is new or being used for a previously undescribed purpose, then a solid justification for the experiment must be provided, based on what is known about the agent. This could include in vitro data, or studies with compounds of similar activity or structure.



The Australian School of Advanced Medicine, Macquarie University

Workload: It is important that investigators consider the workload associated with performing experiments, particularly the number of procedures to be performed in one session, the duration of the experiment involving repeated testing of animals and the timing of the experiments with respect to weekends and holidays. Working under stress of lack of sleep or too many complex procedures can lead to unacceptable animal welfare outcomes; this should be avoided by careful planning.

Monitoring: Where daily or more frequent monitoring of animals is required after a procedure such as surgery or drug administration, 2 or more investigators who are available to undertake the monitoring must be included on the protocol. This is in part to minimize potential workload problems, but also serves to ensure that monitoring can still occur if there is an unforeseen situation involving one of the investigators.

Vet standards: The NHMRC Code of Practice is clear that surgery and subsequent pain relief must conform to or parallel current medical or veterinary practice (3.3.30 and elsewhere). This means adequate and appropriate anaesthesia and analgesia, the use of aseptic technique and adequate monitoring during and after surgery. The AEC can call on significant expertise to assist investigators in meeting these requirements; in particular we hope that you will talk to the Animal Welfare Officer if you have any questions or needs for training.

The AEC is here to oversee and support your work. Please do not hesitate to contact the Secretariat, the Animal Welfare Officer or me if you have any questions, requests or comments.

Sincerely

Mark

Public Consultation on a Draft Supplement to Chapter 7 of the Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research (2007)

Closed on Thursday, 2 May 2013, 05:00pm (AEDST). Submissions for this public consultation are no longer being accepted.


NHMRC, in partnership with the Australian Research Council (ARC) and Universities Australia (UA), and through extensive public consultation, developed the *Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research* (2007) (the Code). The Code advocates and describes best practice in research for researchers and institutions.


Chapter 7 of the Code deals specifically with conflicts of interest and the responsibilities of institutions and of researchers in ensuring the responsible conduct of research. NHMRC, ARC and UA view the management of conflicts of interest as an issue of central importance in ensuring that decisions are free of bias and that there is a high level of integrity in research and research translation.

We have developed a draft supplement to the Code to ensure public confidence in the performance of these objectives and to be responsive to public concern and international developments about competing interests and the rigour of processes required for the disclosure of interests.

You are invited to make a submission to the NHMRC about the draft document.

Consultation documents

 [Download the Draft Supplement to Chapter 7 of the Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research \(2007\) - \(PDF - 78kb\)](#)

 [Download the Draft Supplement to Chapter 7 of the Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research \(2007\) - \(WORD - 65kb\)](#)

Please note: If you are having problems downloading a document, please right-click on the link and select "Save Target/Link as..." and choose a location to save the file to.

Amendment to the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Regulations 2008 (POCTA Regulations)

An amendment to the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Regulations 2008 (POCTA Regulations) was introduced on Tuesday **9th April 2013**. New versions of the POCTA Regulations are available from www.legislation.vic.gov.au under 'Law today'.

The POCTA Regulations were amended to add Regulation 105A, which prescribes the Australian Code of Practice for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes 7th edition 2004 (the Australian Code) for the purposes of Section 11(2) of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act (POCTA Act).

Section 11(2) of the Act was introduced in December 2012 to provide a clearer defence, where appropriate, to a prosecution for cruelty and aggravated cruelty offences under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986. This amendment prescribes compliance with the Australian Code as an appropriate defence for those using animals in research and teaching.

Please contact Dr Dani Maver (dani.maver@dpi.vic.gov.au, 03 9217 4107) if you have any questions about the changes to the POCTA Regulations.

Australian Animal Welfare Strategy (AAWS)

The Australian Government is set to build on its animal welfare efforts after announcing \$360,000 to fund 13 new projects under the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy (AAWS).

The projects, to be coordinated by the Australian Animal Welfare Advisory Committee, will work to improve the welfare of performance, working, companion, research and teaching, production, and aquatic animals.

<http://www.daff.gov.au/animal-plant-health/welfare/aaws>

9th International Conference on Behaviour, Physiology and Genetics of Wildlife

18 – 21 September 2013 in Berlin Germany

<http://www.izw-berlin.de/welcome-234.html>

Tips and Hints for your applications

ARA applications for teaching and training utilising animals that are already covered by an existing ARA – please ensure that the Primary Investigator of the existing ARA is also listed as the Primary Investigator of the teaching/training ARA. This ensures a clearer understanding of the potential cumulative effects that multiple ARA's may have on the same group of animals and an understanding of the implications for ongoing research.

Important AEC Forms Changes

We will be looking to progress the development of the Phenotype Report for GMO-related research. If you are potentially looking to work with GMO's in the future, your input at this Draft stage would be appreciated.

If this form is relevant to your field of research, please email animal.ethics.mq.edu.au for a copy of the current draft.

Training opportunities this month

Please contact the AWO if you require any training prior to commencing work in the CAF. We are working toward offering this training in a slightly altered format – so stay tuned. Details of some proposed minor changes will be presented to the Animal Ethics Committee on the 16th May. Implementation of these should follow shortly. As previously, these training sessions are intended to facilitate improved welfare through confidence in routine rodent handling and procedures. Your feedback is much appreciated.

Animal Ethics Calendar

Next Application submission deadline date 2013

Monday 27 May 2013

Next Animal Ethics Committee Meeting date 2013

Thursday 16 May 2013

Proposed “Working with Research Animals Workshops” in 2013

19 July 2013*

Please note this date has had to be brought forward from the previously advertised date.

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