

Program of Laboratory Animal Resources

September 2017 Newsletter

New Faces in the Vivaria: PLAR has several new employees. Dr. Dan Montonye has been with WSU since June 1, 2017. He has been very active in assisting with protocol review and training. Mira DeBerry is the new Veterinary Specialist. She will be assisting with surgical procedures, husbandry duties, oversight of the sentinel program, and performing technical procedures as requested. Barrett Everson is the new Animal Technician. He will be performing husbandry duties. Both start the week of Sept. 18.

New Email Group: A new email group, ocv.spokane.vet@wsu.edu, has been created. The persons in the group include Dr. Nina Woodford, Dr. Dan Montonye, and Merle J Heineke.

Health Report: The most recent samples from the sentinel program have been completed. At this time, the rodent colonies are free of all viruses and pathogens. The next round of testing will be conducted in December, 2017.

PPE Requirements: Signage has been posted on the doors of the animal and procedure rooms since the PBS facility opened that indicate what PPE is required to work in the room. Over the past months, it has been observed that many researchers are ignoring the signs. Signage has also been posted in HERB. In order to maintain a Specific Pathogen Free (SPF) facility, it is critical that everyone comply with the PPE requirements.

IACUC Semi-Annual Inspection: The next inspection will be conducted in October, 2017. Please check reagents and supplies for expiration dates.

Vet Corner:

The IACUC has approved a new policy on food and fluid restriction and diet manipulations for all animals used in research at WSU. This is meant to be a source of information for investigators to help guide them when designing experiments and writing protocols that will require modifications to their animals' standard husbandry practices regarding their food and water. The policy first seeks to guide investigators by defining what constitutes food/fluid regulation and diet manipulation, and then by outlining protocol and record keeping requirements for both food/fluid regulation and for experimental/non-standard or special diets.

In its entirety, the policy is meant to help ensure animal welfare is appropriately considered and follows the regulations set forth by the Animal Welfare Act and the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* when conducting experiments that involve changes in food/fluid from standard practice.

As with any experiment, familiarity with the needs of the species/strain is essential for planning an appropriate protocol that involves alterations to their standard husbandry. Consultation regarding food/fluid regulation and experimental/non-standard diets or special diets with The Office of the Campus Veterinarian is always encouraged if you feel you do not have the experience, or if you have any questions regarding the new policy. Please refer to the complete policy and description at <https://iacuc.wsu.edu/documents/2017/07/policy-35.pdf> and please don't hesitate to contact our office at or.ocv.alert@wsu.edu with any questions you may have.

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