

March 15, 2021

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Dear Dr. Lanford:

The AAALAC International Council on Accreditation has reviewed the report of the recent site visit to the University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland. The Council commends you and the staff for providing and maintaining a quality program of laboratory animal care and use. Especially noteworthy were the excellent communication between units and centralized oversight functions, evidenced in part by sick animal notifications and identification and documentation of singly housed animals; the strong institutional support, evidenced in part by the investment in new positions and facilities, the multiple animal research, welfare and safety committees, and the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning system replacement in the Animal Sciences facility; the appearance of well cared for animals and animal facilities; the effective program for managing use-by dates for pharmaceutical grade drugs; the knowledgeable, organized staff and well maintained facilities at the Wye Angus Facility and Dairy; the novel SCR monitoring system at the Dairy that tracked and facilitated production and animal health; the detailed, well organized large animal medical records and the rodent health records in the centralized facilities; the well informed Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC); and the knowledgeable, enthusiastic and engaged program personnel at all levels. The Council is pleased to inform you that the program conforms with AAALAC International standards as set forth by the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*, NRC 2011 and the *Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Research and Teaching*, FASS 2010, NRC 2011. Therefore, **FULL ACCREDITATION** shall continue.

Council acknowledges receipt of the correspondence dated January 21, 2021 and December 22 and November 16, 2020 detailing actions taken relative to concerns expressed by the site visitors during the exit briefing. Specifically, the items addressed satisfactorily included: reevaluating the use of ethanol as a sterilant for surgically implanted materials; planning to develop a document designed to provide information regarding health hazards and risks associated with caring for institutionally owned animals; planning to implement a program for staff training regarding cage and rack washer safety and generate associated safety signage; planning to implement staff retraining regarding aquatic zoonotic diseases including atypical mycobacteriosis; planning to reassess the risk of rodent allergen exposure and consider mitigation through use of appropriate engineering controls; improving the semiannual report and reporting process to ensure compliance with the Public Health Service *Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* and animal welfare regulations; planning to enhance guidance and oversight regarding use of non-pharmaceutical grade compounds; planning to enhance environmental enrichment consistency; planning to install a new remote monitoring system to observe the welfare of owls; planning to evaluate animal room light levels; reevaluating the use of adhesive traps for vermin control; planning to investigate more centralized management, tracking and veterinary

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oversight of the animal procurement process; planning to complete implementation of a program for monitoring sanitation effectiveness for animal equipment that is washed in mechanical equipment or manually; planning to ensure the safe use of tricaine methanesulfonate (MS-222); and planning to evaluate the safety of bulk chemical storage containment.

Enclosed is a further recommendation for improvement of the animal care and use program. The Council on Accreditation notes that there is no obligation for institutions to make program changes based on suggestions for improvement. Implementation of suggestions is, however, one means of promoting a high quality animal care and use program.

AAALAC International requires an Annual Report detailing changes made during the year in accredited units. If your institution chooses to implement program modifications in response to the suggestion described in the enclosure, the Annual Report provides an opportunity to summarize the actions taken. In the interim, AAALAC International expects to be apprised in a timely manner of significant programmatic changes or concerns should they occur. Please note that, at your request, AAALAC International will provide your institution with a separate letter simply verifying that your animal care and use program is accredited.

Sincerely,



Gaylen L. Edwards, D.V.M., Ph.D.
President, Council on Accreditation

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Enclosure

cc: Laurie Locascio, M.S., Ph.D., Vice President for Research and Institutional Official
Catherine Carr, Ph.D., Professor and Chair, IACUC
Larry Shelton, D.V.M., Director, Laboratory Animal Resources and Attending Veterinarian

**University of Maryland
College Park, Maryland
File # 001410**

Suggestion for Improvement:

A health monitoring program was not in place for the zebrafish breeding colony located in ANSC 0303; the cichlid colonies in BPS0200, BPS2283, and BPS2202; cavefish in BPS 2271; and killifish in BPS2283. The *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (Guide)*, NRC 2011 states, “Procedures for disease prevention, diagnosis, and therapy should be those currently accepted in veterinary and laboratory animal practice. Health monitoring programs also include veterinary herd/flock health programs for livestock and colony health monitoring programs for aquatic and rodent species.” Healthy fish are necessary for reliable research data. Council acknowledges the correspondence dated November 16, 2020 reiterating that daily checks of fish include monitoring for various health criteria and clinical signs for potential animal illness, and ensuring that standard operating procedures provide instruction to notify the Attending Veterinarian if illness is detected. However, the Council strongly encourages the Attending Veterinarian and researchers to develop and implement a health monitoring program for fish as recommended in the *Guide*.