Autumn 2024

Data Sharing Tool: UCFigshare

UCFigshare is a new data repository for NIH-sponsored UC researchers, promoting compliant scientific data sharing. Aligned with FAIR data principles, it is a collaboration between the Office of Research, UC Libraries, and DTS, offering a platform for accessible and interoperable data sharing. For more information, including when and how to use UCFigshare, please visit the new webpage or email to figshare@ucmail.uc.edu.

 Use of AI to Conduct Research

Before using AI or Generative AI tools verify that the information or data is classified as "Public" under the university's Data Classification Policy. Information protected by regulations (e.g., HIPAA, FERPA, Comon Rule), organizational policies, as well as contract, intellectual property or other agreements should NOT be shared with or entered into generative AI tools such as ChatGPT. The use of AI technology should not involve confidential, sensitive, or restricted information. When in doubt, seek guidance from the Office of Information Security.

 Request for Information (RFI) on AI
The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) has posted an RFI on current and future practices and methodologies for the responsible development and use of chemical and/or biological AI models. The RFI encourages concrete examples, best practices, case studies, and actionable recommendations where possible. The RFI is open until December 4, 2024. To learn more and respond: https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/10/04/2024-22974/safety-considerations-for-chemical-andor-biological-ai-models

Controlled Substances
When using controlled substances, you must accurately document the amount used. Remember to account for the volume lost in syringes/ needle hubs.

 We are here to facilitate your research.

Feel free to reach out with suggestions, questions, or concerns.

Jane Strasser, Ph.D.
Senior Associate Vice President for Research
Research Compliance Officer
Research Integrity Officer

IN THIS ISSUE:

ANIMAL CARE AND USE PROGRAM

Tracking Animal Usage Numbers

It is important to track animal numbers to avoid going over your approved animal usage! AOPS RAP automatically deducts purchased or transferred animals from your approved amount, but animals that are bred in-house must be manually deducted in AOPS RAP. While the IACUC Office assists with deducting offspring numbers, Investigators are responsible for ensuring accurate animal usage is recorded on their protocol. Refer to ACUP Policy 107 for more information.

IACUC Protocol Familiarity & RAP Access

Investigators should be familiar with all aspects of their IACUC protocol(s) and ensure that all protocol staff (including themselves) have access to the protocol(s) in IACUC RAP. The IACUC RAP Manual provides illustrated instructions for navigating the system and the IACUC Office can also assist with logging into or using IACUC RAP.

High Fat Diets

If you are using, or planning to use, high fat diets in mice, we are scheduling a seminar with the nutritionist from Research Diets and will keep you posted on dates. In the meantime, below are some of their tips and recommendations. Mice can exhibit variations in food intake and food preference because of changes in the quality of a High Fat Diet (HFD) over time. Dehydration and oxidation are critical factors influencing the quality of these diets, and they often lose palatability quickly and intake can decrease.

Tips from Research Diets:

- Prior to use, it's best to keep diet frozen. It can be refrigerated but will not last as long.
- Replacement of the diet with fresh, frozen, or freshly thawed HFD can stabilize food intake. It should ideally be replaced twice weekly, but some can be stable for up to one week.
- Do not add fresh diet to older diet as it could compromise the integrity and palatability.
- Diet water loss also contributes to palatability. HFD begin to desiccate after one day, especially in ventilated caging due to the higher air flow.
- Avoid using diet fragments or powder since these can fall to the cage floor and contaminate the bedding

IACUC Fall Semiannual Inspection Results

Fall semiannual inspections are complete! No significant findings were reported. Common deficiencies included:

- **expired materials** (use of expired pharmaceuticals, biologics, and supplies like drugs, fluids, sutures is inconsistent with adequate veterinary care; see ACUP Policy 105 for details)

- **improperly labeled secondary containers** (all secondary containers must be minimally labeled with name and expiration from stock bottle; items with no expiration date can be labeled "no expiry")

- **animal use areas not clearly marked**

ACUP Policies & Guideline Locations

All ACUP policies and guidelines are accessible in multiple locations, including Research How 2, Bearcats Landing, and the Help Center tab in IACUC RAP.

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EXPORT CONTROLS, RESEARCH TRANSPARENCY, AND SECURITY

Outside Activity Reporting

The University of Cincinnati is moving to a new disclosure system — Bearcat ROAR (Required Outside Activity Report). The system will replace the university's Outside Activity Report (OAR). The new ROAR system will start to roll out the first week of November. Faculty and staff will receive an email notification from the ROAR system prompting them to go in and submit the annual report once the system is operational. If an employee needs to submit a new activity (within 30 days of acquisition) in the interim, that activity can be disclosed online at this time. More information and training demonstrations for the new ROAR system will be available in the next couple of weeks. Questions can be emailed to OARquestions@uc.edu.

Restricted Research

October is Information Security Awareness month; the Office of Information Security has lots of activities to help you learn more about information security and what University of Cincinnati offers to help you protect your information. Please check out all the activities happening here: https://www.uc.edu/about/ucit/about/cybersecurity/education---awareness/cybersecurity-awareness-month-.html

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HUMAN RESEARCH PROTECTIONS PROGRAM

Revised HRP-508 Site Supplement to Sponsor Protocol Template

The HRP-508 Site Supplement to Sponsor Protocol template has been revised and updated in the IRB RAP library. All new study submissions that include a sponsor written protocol should use the new HRP-508 template effective 9/16/2024.

Study Modifications

When submitting modifications involving revisions to, or the addition of study documents and/or procedures, provide a summary of those changes as well as the rationale. Place redlined documents as a comment in the history. The submission should also include whether or not the proposed changes are anticipated to require reconsent or sending new information to research participants. If reconsent is anticipated, then describe if this will apply to all research participants or a subset (e.g., active, follow-up, completed participants).

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LAB SAFETY NEWS

BIOSAFETY

NEW! Lab Safety Resources page

Check out the new Lab Safety Resources page for researchers! It contains helpful links and resources for all types of hazards, including information on lab accident response, required training, waste disposal, lab audits, and more.

Biosecurity U.S. Policy: DURC/PEPP FAQ

A FAQ page for the new the new DURC/PEPP policy has been released (https://aspr.hhs.gov/S3/Pages/DURC-and-PEPP-FAQ.aspx). The new policy will cover research awarded on or after May 26, 2025 and will apply to any quantity of select agent toxins.

RADIATION SAFETY

All labs/areas utilizing or possessing unsealed radioactive materials (RAM) are required to document a survey at a frequency commensurate with the activity used. It is important to note, storage of unsealed RAM in a lab is considered a "use" and, at a minimum, a monthly survey is required for the room the RAM is stored in. Any lab(s) that have neither RAM storage nor RAM use for that month may replace a monthly contamination survey for that room only with documentation of "No Use". Authorized Users should keep this in mind as student or lab support change.

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SAVE THE DATE & ONLINE RESOURCES

Five Takeaways from the September Webinar on the Fellowship Changes (NIH Extramural Nexus) Changes to the NIH fellowship application and review process are coming for applications due on or after January 25, 2025. The webinar recording is [now available](). Below are answers to some of the most frequent questions. https://nexus.od.nih.gov/all/2024/10/10/five-takeaways-from-the-september-webinar-on-the-fellowship-changes/

10/22/2024 **SACHRP** (Secretary's Advisory Committee on Human Research Protections) Public Meeting. For more information and link to webcast**:** https://www.hhs.gov/ohrp/sachrp-committee/meetings/2024/10/22/oct-22-2024-virtual-meeting/index.html

11/13/2024 - [NIH Grants Process Primer: Application to Award - Part One]()

11/14/2024 - [NIH Grants Process Primer: Application to Award - Part Two]()