

October 26, 2009

New Iberia Research Center
University of Louisiana at Lafayette
P.O. Box 13610
New Iberia, LA 70562

Dear _____

The Council on Accreditation of the Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care (AAALAC International) has reviewed the report of the recent site visit to the New Iberia Research Center, University of Louisiana at Lafayette, New Iberia, Louisiana. The Council commends you and the staff for providing and maintaining a high quality program of laboratory animal care and use. Especially noteworthy were the strong administrative support for the program, as demonstrated by the funding for new facility construction and remodeling, as well as the recent hiring of a physical plant manager assigned to facility maintenance and repair; the highly trained and motivated animal care staff who were dedicated to developing, implementing, and continually assessing the behavioral management program; and the excellent program of veterinary care. 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 (Guide), NRC 1996. Therefore, **FULL ACCREDITATION** shall continue.

Council acknowledges receipt of the electronic correspondence from _____ dated July 22, 2009 and your communication dated July 20, 2009 indicating prompt actions taken relative to concerns expressed by the site visitors during the exit briefing. Specifically, the items included: providing heating, ventilation, and air conditioning system performance data in the AAALAC International requested format; developing a system for adequately addressing and resolving semiannual facility inspection concerns; revising procedures to ensure adequate immediate treatment for employees with potential Herpes B exposure; removing mercury thermometers from animal rooms; updating standard operating procedures to address sanitation concerns; replacing cracked and crazed infant incubators; retraining staff on reporting procedures for infant incubator temperatures that are observed to be outside of set ranges; initiating regular bacterial testing for incoming facility water; intensifying efforts to resolve ongoing facility repair and maintenance concerns; re-evaluating the scope of the Occupational Health Surveillance program; and replacing rusted casters on some animal racks and equipment.

While Council is pleased to continue Full Accreditation, the following suggestion for improvement of the animal care and use program is offered:

The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) is responsible for oversight of the semiannual review process and, as such, should ensure the timely repair of facility maintenance issues identified as a result of these inspections. The list of facility concerns identified by the IACUC during the recent semiannual review, including peeled paint, rusted door frames, nicks and

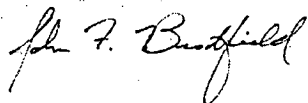
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cracks in walls, chipped and pitted floors, was extensive. These types of facility concerns were noted as a suggestion for improvement during the AAALAC International site visit of July 20-21, 2006. Similar concerns were described in the IACUC's semiannual program review and facility inspection report dated November 3, 2008. The site visitors identified the same physical plant issues during the 2009 site visit, with examples of facility maintenance concerns observed in Buildings 10A and B, 27, 28, 29, 31, 34, 37, 41 42, 44, 45, and 46. Both the Guide and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal Welfare Regulations state that surfaces in an animal facility should be constructed and maintained in a manner that allow them to be readily cleaned and sanitized. While Council acknowledges the institution's ongoing commitment to strengthening its facility maintenance program and the IACUC's proposed procedures to ensure timely resolution of identified deficiencies, Council strongly encourages that your efforts to repair facilities be intensified and accelerated.

AAALAC International requires an annual report detailing changes made during the year in accredited units. 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. If your institution chooses to implement program modifications in response to the suggestion described above, 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. Should you also wish to distribute an electronic copy of this letter to program staff; a Portable Document Format (pdf) version will be sent upon request.

Sincerely,



John F. Bradfield, D.V.M., Ph.D.
President, Council on Accreditation

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