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July 31, 2006

Elizabeth Goldentyer, DVM
Regional Director, Animal Care
United States Department of Agriculture
920 Main Campus Drive, Suite 200
Raleigh, NC 27606

Dear Dr. Goldentyer:

On June 30, 2006, the Medical College of Wisconsin notified you of the College's response to the recent USDA Animal Care inspection. In that letter, the College stated that the animal use activities under ^{(b)(4)} were suspended.

On July 26, 2006, the protocol was submitted to the IACUC for reconsideration. In a fully convened meeting with a quorum present, the IACUC approved the protocol for one year. The USDA inspection team had a number of questions about this protocol, and the College's responses are the following:

Alternatives: The USDA inspection report indicated that the IACUC must have additional information to assess the use of alternatives for the protocol. The investigator believes that dogs are most appropriate for the study of the cardiovascular system. One of the key reasons has to do with the size of organs used. Larger mammals best mimic the human heart and vascular system, providing a more realistic experience for the students. The Committee discussed the use of alternate species that would similarly mimic human cardiovascular organ measurements. Pigs were considered, but experience has shown that the pig is more delicate and has a higher mortality rate even before the proposed procedures are performed. The use of sheep was also considered, but many of the sheep available for study come from a farm environment. Since sheep may carry any number of infections, it was felt that they are not a suitable alternative for these studies where many students are exposed to the animals.

The Committee also discussed the literature dealing with the overall use of animals to teach physiology in the laboratory and concluded that this is a valuable teaching experience, in line with recent opinions expressed from the American Physiological Society.

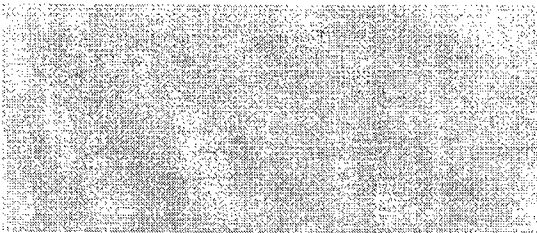
Number of dogs: The investigator provided a written justification for 60 dogs for the course, which is taught once per year. The IACUC considered the justification and approved the number.

Description of the instruction: The protocol now states that there are 18 tables in the lab, with 2-4 students per table. There is an instructor for each table. The protocol now lists more than sufficient numbers of trained personnel who are qualified to instruct. The protocol provides that the instructor at the table is responsible for anesthesia management, and the protocol now delineates several times during the procedure that the level of anesthesia is to be verified and how. Records of anesthesia level verification are to be kept. The description of animal preparation has been expanded; animals will be kept NPO before the procedure except for water. Finally, the procedures for euthanasia are more clearly described; the animals will be kept under anesthesia during the euthanasia procedures.

As noted above, after extensive discussion the IACUC voted to approve the protocol for one year. The aspect of the physiology course to which this protocol is relevant occurs during the spring semester; no animal activities under this protocol will occur until at least early 2007. In the meantime, the issues discussed in the literature concerning the use and utility of animal work in the physiology course for medical and graduate students will be discussed by MCW leadership. If there is a change in protocol status based on those discussions, we will notify you.

Please let us know if you require further information.

Sincerely,



(b)(6), (b)(7)c

