We are delighted to present to you, the first edition of the IACUC Newsletter! We intend to begin releasing newsletters on a regular basis going forward to help keep you updated with changes occurring within the office. We want this newsletter to be of value to you so your feedback and suggestions are welcome. Feel free to send comments to IACUC@uvm.edu.

**Electronic Submissions**

Over the winter, the Research Protections Office (RPO) began preparations to the InfoEd system to allow IACUC Investigators to submit protocol materials directly into InfoEd instead of emailing them to the IACUC email inbox. By utilizing this functionality of the InfoEd software, your submissions are catalogued immediately, and placed in a queue for processing. This will allow you access to all of your IACUC protocol materials as well as the ability to check the status of any of your submissions.

Currently, IACUC Committee members are submitting new protocols and amendments through InfoEd to ensure that the functionality is working as planned. Once we have assured ourselves of the submission process, we plan to open electronic submissions to all IACUC researchers. Updates and training materials will be forthcoming.

**Research Manual Updates**

In June, the Research Manual was updated to reflect new policies and processes. Most of the new processes have been sent to you through email communications but we wanted to take a moment to summarize the changes for you;

1) **Six-Year Protocol Renewal Process**: We implemented this new process in January 2017. The IACUC requires that all projects that plan to continue beyond six years undergo a full review and approval. The primary purpose for this protocol re-review is to ensure that you and the institution are meeting current regulatory requirements.

2) **Noncompliance Policy**: We have developed a noncompliance policy for all boards to allow flexibility and transparency to the noncompliance review process.

3) **Veterinary Verification Consultation**: Veterinary Verification Consultation, or VVC, is a new administrative review type where the veterinarian alone can approve certain protocol amendments. Actions in the VVC category include certain repeat procedures, changes in housing location, euthanasia methods within AVMA guidelines, and changes in anesthetics, analgesics, antibiotics or fluid replacement. The addition of this new review type still requires that your amendment be submitted to the IACUC, but will streamline the amendment process and reduce regulatory burden within the committee.

**Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI)**

RPO is collaborating with CITI to provide a single platform for all research training modules involving human subjects, vertebrate animals and research involving biohazardous materials. The primary reason for moving from Blackboard to CITI is that this platform provides one place for our researchers to find all of their required training as well as one
place to document completions. Additionally, CITI training modules are developed by experts in their fields and are always kept current with changing regulations. The CITI platform also allowed flexibility to customize our “local content” to include specific information about conducting research at UVM.

Last winter we successfully rolled out the Human Subjects required CITI training to researchers and are close to rolling out modules for IACUC researchers. In addition to completing the new module, researchers will be required to retrain once every three years. Data from other institutions demonstrate that researcher training, including periodic retraining, result in fewer instances of noncompliance so we are excited to make this program available to the research community. Please stay tuned for updates.

**Protocol Deviation Form**

There is a new form available on our forms library. The Protocol Deviation Form is to be completed when a deviation in approved procedures has been identified or brought to the attention of the PI. Completion and submission of this form provides a level of detail that will be used by the IACUC to establish the level of seriousness and assess the proposed plan to avoid future instances.

**Form Changes**

When preparing a submission of any type, please visit the forms library to obtain the latest version of the form you need. Our forms are updated frequently to capture information needed as processes/regulations change. You will notice in the near future that the first page of most of the forms will be changing. We will remove fields that are no longer needed due to electronic submission either through email or via InfoEd.

**Staff Updates**

Please join us in welcoming our newest staff member, Kari Bierbaum. Kari has a great deal of administrative experience in both the health care and academic settings, having spent several years in the UVMMC Emergency Department and most recently, Saint Michael’s College. She will be supporting the RPO Research Review Analysts for all three Committees and we are very excited to have her on our team! A directory of RPO staff can be found on our contact page.

**Articles of Interest**

This article discusses the implications of using both sexes in lab animal research

Prevalence of Sexual Dimorphism in mammalian phenotypic traits