

## Animal Care and Use Committee

**Committee Members:** J. A. Bryan, II (Chair), B. Danielson, J. Eggleston, M. R. Gannon, W. L. Gannon, D. W. Hale, B. R. Jesmer, S. Loeb, D. K. Odell, L. E. Olson, R. D. Stevens, T. A. Thompson, R. M. Timm, S. A. Trewhitt, J. Whittaker, and J. R. Willoughby.

### **Mission:**

The ACUC acts as a resource for issues concerning the use of animals in research. The committee maintains information on the ASM website regarding animal use and compliance and publishes revised guidelines regularly. The committee responds to inquiries from Society members, IACUC staff, government and other agencies regarding appropriate use of wild mammals in research. We provide comments on proposed changes to animal use regulations and work to facilitate appropriate oversight of the use of wild mammals in research. Over the past years, the ACUC has become increasingly proactive in educational efforts aimed at helping oversight and regulatory personnel understand the unique aspects of research with wild mammals.

### **Information Items – January 2016 to date:**

(1) Efforts from various ASM ACUC members are collectively maintaining a high level of engagement and visibility concerning the challenges of wildlife research among oversight personnel, funders, and regulators.

(2) The *Guidelines of the American Society of Mammalogists for the Use of Wild Mammals in Research* (ASM guidelines) continue to be the standard for oversight of research involving wild mammals. To date, there are more than 1,100 citations of the 2011 guidelines in more than 150 different journals. At present, there are 30 citations of the 2016 guidelines, and this value is expected to grow significantly. Importantly, more than 55% of the citations are in journals other than *JM*, which is a clear indication that these guidelines are being used by researchers as the most appropriate reference materials regardless of where they are publishing. On average, since 2007, the ASM guidelines are cited approximately 180 times per year.

(3) ACUC members Bryan and Sikes presented *Primer for Wildlife Protocols* at the Public Responsibility in Medicine & Research (PRIM&R) Annual Conference in Bellevue, WA. April, 2016. ACUC member Tracy Thompson was also in attendance.

(4) ACUC members Bryan and Sikes presented *IACUC Deliberations Using Wildlife Scenarios* at the PRIM&R Annual Conference in Bellevue, WA. April, 2016. ACUC member Tracy Thompson was also in attendance.

(5) The previous ACUC Chair (Sikes) was elected to AAALAC International's Council on Accreditation. Because Council members review reference materials and establish accreditation

expectations in addition to performing site visits, inclusion on this body provides an additional voice within AAALAC International for field-oriented input. April 2016.

(6) ACUC Chair Sikes became ASM President, and ACUC member Bryan became the ASM ACUC Chair in June 2016.

(7) The ACUC Chair presented *Animal Welfare and Euthanasia Guidelines* at a United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) wildlife disease training workshop in Chiefland, FL. June 2016.

(8) The ACUC Chair presented *Animal Welfare and Euthanasia Guidelines* at a USFWS wildlife disease training workshop in Vicksburg, MS. September 2016.

(9) The ACUC Chair was elected to serve as the ASM Member Organization Delegate to AAALAC International in September 2016.

(10) The ASM President and ACUC Chair presented *Tailoring Oversight to Wildlife* at the Scientists Center for Animal Welfare (SCAW) Annual Winter Program in San Antonio, TX. December 2016.

(11) The ASM President and ASM ACUC Chair presented *IACUC Basics for the Use of Wildlife in Research and Education* at the PRIM&R Annual Conference in New Orleans, LA. March 2017. ACUC member Tracy Thompson was also in attendance.

(12) ASM President Sikes and ACUC members Bryan and Thompson presented *Deliberations Using Wildlife Scenarios* at the PRIM&R Annual Conference in New Orleans, LA. March 2017.

(13) The ACUC Chair presented *Preparing an Agency Animal Use Protocol and IACUC Approval* at the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Eastern Black Bear Workshop in Ligonier, PA. April 2017.

(14) The ACUC continues to field numerous questions from investigators, IACUC members, or regulatory agencies regarding field techniques or oversight concerns. The Chair responded by electronic mail, letters of support/clarification, and telephone calls to inquiries from numerous agencies and institutions seeking insights on oversight matters involving wild mammals.

(15) ASM President Sikes and ACUC members Bryan and Thompson continue to develop a meeting on the oversight of wildlife research tailored for oversight personnel under the aegis of (SCAW). The event is similar to the 2011 conference on the same theme that was jointly organized by the ASM and OC. The meeting will be held 30 October – 1 November 2017, in San Diego, CA. The intent is to have this event repeated every 2-3 years.

(16) The ACUC Chair continues to provide ongoing consultation to the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine IACUC regarding oversight of wildlife animal use activities.

(17) Interactions with leadership of sister taxon organizations and other agencies regarding their consideration of the wildlife protocol template continues. We are making good headway in establishing a united concern on appropriate oversight of wild vertebrates.

**Action Items:**

AAALAC International

\$ 100.00 AAALAC International (membership)

\$ 1,500.00 Travel to AAALAC Board of Trustees Meeting (transportation and lodging, 3 nights)

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\$ 1,600.00

Scientists Center for Animal Welfare (SCAW)

\$ 1,000.00 SCAW (Institutional membership)

\$ 1,500.00 Transportation and lodging, 3 nights

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\$ 2,500.00

PRIM&R (Public Responsibility in Medicine and Research)

\$ 500.00 Registration, Annual Meeting

\$ 3,000.00 Transportation and lodging, will fund 2 members for 3 nights.

NOTE—funds for second ASM member to be used only if both serve as PRIM&R faculty

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\$ 3,500.00

Contingency travel funds for travel and lodging for interactions with sister organizations, regulatory, or federal funding agencies to address concerns over regulatory oversight of wild mammals.

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\$ 3,000.00

**TOTAL REQUEST \$ 10,600.00**

**Respectfully submitted,**

John A. Bryan, II, Chair

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