I’ve been working closely with our Animal Care Advisory Council, Office of Laboratory Animal Care, and IACUC leadership to ensure our university achieves full accreditation by the Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care International (AAALACi). As you know, AAALACi accreditation is voluntary, but vital for our institution. Maintaining our accreditation not only ensures research funds are not jeopardized by lack of standards, but it also indicates our steadfast commitment to meet these standards while making quality discoveries.

We have a deadline of April 28 to submit completed actions to ensure compliance with all federal, state, and institutional animal care and use policies. Our IACUC and OLAC staffs have created an animal care and use training program and are in the process of verifying all animal users are satisfactorily trained. In addition, we have put in place a robust post-IACUC approval compliance monitoring program. I have confidence our actions will be viewed favorably for continued full accreditation.

I am committed to serving the University of Tennessee scientific community and thank you for your help in advancing our research programs in an accountable manner.

Sincerely,

Jim Thompson, DVM, PhD
Dean and Institutional Official

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UPDATE: Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals

In a continuing effort to improve the conditions for animals in research, the National Research Council recently released an updated edition to the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* (commonly known as the *Guide*). The purpose of the *Guide* is to assist institutions in the care and utilization of animals in ways judged to be scientifically and humanely appropriate. The *Guide* is also intended to assist researchers in their planning and conduct of animal experiments keeping with the highest scientific and ethical principles. The *Guide* is not only the basis for AAALACi accreditation, but is also central to the Public Health Service Policy on the Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals.

The update effort intends to reflect new scientific information related to the issues already covered in the *Guide* and to add discussion and guidance on new topics of laboratory animal care.

Updates include:

- an endorsement of “the three Rs” - replacement, refinement, and reduction
- a new section on the care and use of aquatic species
- a new section on creating a disaster and emergency plan
- new material on veterinary clinical care and management
- updated information on physical plant related topics

As the interim ACS director, Dr. Campbell will be coordinating and conducting reviews of animal records, facilities, and procedure laboratories. At laboratory visits, protocols and records will be reviewed for performance, accuracy, and completeness. The ACS director will also coordinate the training/support program for UTK investigators on animal use issues. There is a search currently underway to fill this position on a permanent basis.

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**Interim Director of Animal Compliance Support**

Please welcome Mark Campbell, PhD as our acting director of Animal Compliance Support (ACS). Dr. Campbell has a long history at the University of Tennessee and has been a member of the East Tennessee Research and Education Center for twenty-two years. Currently, he is facility supervisor of the Joe Johnson Animal Research and Teaching Building. Dr. Campbell has served on the IACUC since 2003, and was chair of the committee from 2004 to 2006.
I joined the UTK Department of Biochemistry and Cellular and Molecular Biology in 2002 after completing my postdoctoral training at the Baylor College of Medicine and receiving my doctoral degree from Ohio State University. The primary focus of my laboratory is to study the genetic basis of cancer formation using the mouse as a model organism. Among the numerous model organisms used in biomedical research, the mouse model provides a close correlation to complex, heritable human diseases like cancer. In addition, mice have been used as experimental models for over a century and are favorable to other models because of their size, generation times, and modest research costs.

As an independent investigator, I chose to focus on specific genes that were known to be under-expressed in human cancers and had functions that were indicated in tumor suppression. During the past seven years, my laboratory has been successful in generating novel mutant mouse models that were not available anywhere in the world. To date, our studies have shown that the loss of four distinct genes can lead to cancer formation and developmental defects in mice. We have also been fortunate to have valuable collaborators at the UT College of Veterinary Medicine (Drs. Bob Donnell, Stephen Kania and Seung Baek) and the UT Medical Center (Dr. Jonathan Wall) who have been instrumental in providing their expertise. While our major focus has been cancer genetics, the most interesting part of our research has been the discovery of the roles of specific proteins in female fertility and facial development in mammals. Our studies have provided additional clues to the functions of proteins that were initially thought to be involved only in cancers. We hope that our findings will lead to future studies aimed at developing therapies that can reverse facial developmental defects and cancer formation.

Spotlight on Biomedical Research
Dr. Sundar Venkatachalam

Spotlight on Biomedical Research focuses on contributions made to this essential area of research and recognizes these accomplishments that lead to the advancement of human and animal health.
Upcoming Training Opportunities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Time</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 14</td>
<td>Rodent Surgery</td>
<td>UTCVM C228</td>
<td>2:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 28</td>
<td>Animal Related Allergies</td>
<td>UTCVM C228</td>
<td>2:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 5</td>
<td>Basics of Rodent Breeding</td>
<td>UTCVM C228</td>
<td>2:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>May TBA</td>
<td>Horse Behavior and Handling</td>
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<tr>
<td>July TBA</td>
<td>Rodent Handling and Experimental Manipulation Wet Lab</td>
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NEW ONLINE COURSES:

Biomethodology of the Mouse and Biomethodology of the Rat are now on the OLAC website www.vet.utk.edu/olac.

For updates on training please contact Jane Czarra either by phone at 974-5841 or email: jczarra@utk.edu.

Technician of the Year

Our own Jane Czarra was recognized as the AALAS Appalachian Branch Technician of the Year. This prestigious award was presented February 23, 2011. Jane has over 30 years of contributions and accomplishments in the field of Laboratory Animal Science and is an immense asset to our office and the UTK Animal Care and Use Program.

Newest Addition to OLAC

Larkesha Coffee joined OLAC in October 2010 as an Accounting Specialist. She brings experience working as an audit clerk in the Treasurer’s office and as an Accounting Assistant in UTCVM’s Pathology department. Larkesha Coffee is a native of Knoxville, TN. She attended East Tennessee State University where she received her degree in Mass Communications. Larkesha enjoys spending time with her family and is always willing to lend a helping hand.