

March 24, 2025

Leanne C. Alworth, D.V.M., M.S.  
Director of Animal Care and Use  
Office of Research Integrity and Safety  
The University of Georgia  
212 Tucker Hall  
Athens, GA 30602  
USA

Dear Dr. Alworth:

The AAALAC International Council on Accreditation has reviewed the report of the recent site visit to the Colleges of Arts and Sciences, Family and Consumer Sciences, Pharmacy, Public Health, Veterinary Medicine, Odom School of Ecology and the Office of Research, The University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia. The Council commends you and the staff for providing and maintaining an excellent program of laboratory animal care and use. Especially noteworthy were the strong administrative commitment to the program as conveyed by a passionate and engaged leadership, with participation of Institutional Official, Provost, and Deans; the conscientious, dedicated, and knowledgeable staff; the excellent veterinary care program evidenced in part by the appearance of healthy animals, and strong communication among staff, researchers, and the veterinary team; the clean and well-maintained facilities; the laboratory locations with animal use were clean, well-organized, with appropriate allergen and emergency contact signage; the comprehensive and ubiquitous Environmental Enrichment program, from fish to rodents to agricultural species, and ferrets; and the evidence of commitment to the 3Rs including comprehensive scoring systems in ID studies, post operative pain management and assessments in TBI pigs, non-animal mosquito feeding model in an investigator's laboratory, basket style murky water mosquito fish observation system, non-animal sentinel program, and the robust adoption program including partnership with Homes for Animal Heroes. 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*, NRC 2011. Therefore, **FULL ACCREDITATION** shall continue.

Council acknowledges receipt of the correspondence dated November 18, 2024 detailing actions taken relative to concerns expressed by the site visitors during the exit briefing. Specifically, the items addressed satisfactorily included: evaluating personnel exposure risk to rodent allergens and considering engineering and/or personal protective equipment (PPE) options; sanitizing tanks, communicating sanitation expectations to the principal investigator, and enhancing oversight in the satellite fish housing location; evaluating, updating and communicating rodent anesthesia documentation expectations; implementing a notification schedule, including what to do if "all clear" is not received, when working solo with venomous snakes; and using a chemical fume hood for preparation of MS-222 for fish euthanasia.

Council has no further recommendations to offer for improvement of the animal care and use program at this time. We look forward to following your program activities and wish you continued success.

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AAALAC International requires an Annual Report detailing changes made during the year in accredited units. In the interim, AAALAC International expects to be apprised in a timely manner of significant programmatic changes or adverse events 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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Dewi K. Rowlands', with a stylized, cursive script.

Dewi K. Rowlands, M.Phil., M.B.A., Ph.D.

President, Council on Accreditation

DKR:mkr

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cc: Christopher S. King, D.V.M. Interim Vice President for Research