

# IACUC Activities & Protocol Handling During COVID-19

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# Items to cover today

- What is happening in the Office of Animal Care and Use?
- Protocol reviews and approvals, and expirations
- IACUC meetings
- Are any IACUC activities not happening?
- Is UGA meeting our regulatory requirements with NIH/Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) and USDA?
- AAALAC, International accreditation



# What is happening in the OACU?

- We are working remotely full time
- The best way to reach us is via email

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# What is happening with protocol reviews, approvals, and expirations?

- Reviews and approvals are continuing as usual
  - Weekly lists are occurring every week (Category A and B) and meetings are occurring once a month (Category C)
- Expirations will occur on the usual schedule
  - 3 years after initial approval
  - Regulatory agencies are NOT allowing a "stopping of the clock" or "extension" for ongoing protocols



# Is the IACUC meeting as usual?

- Yes, the IACUC is meeting on the normal, monthly schedule
  - Every 3rd Wednesday
  - Via telecommunication --i.e. zoom
    - Meets the regulatory agency requirements



# What IACUC activities are not happening?

- IACUC Inspections
  - Most inspections scheduled since March 16 have not been performed
  - We are doing virtual inspections where possible
    - Labs, small animal facilities
- It is unclear when standard inspections will be allowed
- There will be a backlog once inspections start again



# Communications with NIH/OLAW and USDA

- We have ongoing communications with OLAW and USDA
  - We have obtained a waiver from OLAW to not meet our inspection deadlines
  - USDA has let us know that a waiver is not needed, we just need to document missed deadlines
  - We have let USDA know OACU is working remotely
  - We also have plans/permissions in place to continue to approve *most* Category C protocols in case the IACUC were not able to meet



# What about AAALAC, International accreditation?

- UGA is due for an accreditation site visit in fall 2020
- Whether/how it will occur is unclear
  - AAALAC is back-logged
  - Site visit may be delayed
  - Site visit may be remote in the fall, with an in-person visit next spring
- We continue to prepare for a fall site visit, just in case





*QUESTIONS?*

