

## **SPECIAL SESSION**

*Monday, March 6, 4:30–6:30 pm  
Room 1A (Convention Center)*

**Society of Toxicology**  
**45th Annual Meeting**  
March 5 - 9, 2005  
San Diego, CA

### **Using Animals for Toxicological Research and Testing: Best Practices for Assuring Compliance with Animal Welfare Regulations, Policies, and Guidelines**

*Chairperson(s): Jan Oberdoerster, Bristol-Myers Squibb, East Syracuse, NY and William Stokes, NIEHS, NIH, DHHS, Research Triangle Park, NC*

Toxicological research and testing often require the use of animals to investigate mechanisms of toxic action and to accomplish regulatory safety assessments. This animal use must be conducted in accordance with applicable animal welfare laws, policies, and regulations. Additionally, many organizations participate in voluntary accreditation programs, which also necessitates adherence to best practice standards based on guidelines published in the NRC/ILAR Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals. These requirements and guidelines seek to ensure that investigators use animals in the most humane and judicious manner consistent with successful attainment of the research or testing objectives, and consistent with current best practices for animal care and use.

However, institutions face challenges in assuring adherence to best practices in the face of changing research and testing objectives, priorities, techniques, and animal species, such as in response to recent major bioterrorism research initiatives. They are also faced with adhering to evolving changes in best practices for animal care and use in areas such as environmental enrichment, consideration and use of alternatives, humane endpoints, management of pain and distress, and animal caging and environment. This workshop will review the most common animal care and use deficiencies and suggestions for improvement cited by regulatory and accreditation authorities, and the current best practices used as benchmarks by these organizations for inspections and site visits of animal care and use programs and facilities. Perspectives on compliance issues and current best practices will be provided by U.S. DA APHIS/Animal Care (Animal Welfare Act regulations), NIH Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (PHS Policy on the Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals), and the Association for the Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care International. The Canadian Council on Animal Care and the UK Home Office will provide international perspectives. Increased understanding of current animal care and use compliance issues and expected best practices will facilitate optimization of humane animal care and use by investigators and laboratory animal veterinarians, and minimize the likelihood of disruptive mandatory corrective actions.

- U.S. DA Perspective—Regulatory Compliance Issues for Animals Used in Toxicological Research and Testing**, Jodie Kulpa-Eddy, U.S. DA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, U.S. DA, Riverdale, MD.  
*Description: This presentation will review the most common deficiencies cited by USDA Animal Care Inspectors in toxicological research and testing facilities. The current best practices used as inspection benchmarks by the USDA will be discussed.*
- Using Animals for Toxicological Research and Testing: Best Practices for Assuring Compliance with Animal Welfare Regulations, Policies, and Guidelines**, Axel Wolff, NIH, Bethesda, MD.  
*Description: This presentation will review current compliance issues with the U.S. Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals for institutions with NIH Assurances. Expected best practices for assuring compliance will be presented.*
- AAALAC Perspective: Common Animal Care and Use Program and Facility Recommendations for Improvement for Toxicological Research and Testing Facilities**, John Miller, AAALAC, Rockville, MD.  
*Description: This presentation will review the AAALACI voluntary international accreditation program for animal care and use programs and facilities and the most common deficiencies and suggestions for improvements relevant to toxicological research and testing facilities. Current best practices for assuring adherence to AAALACI standards will be discussed.*
- Canadian Council on Animal Care Perspective: Compliance Issues and Best Practices for Animals Used for Toxicological Research and Testing**, Clement Gauthier, Canadian Council on Animal Care, Ottawa, ON, Canada.  
*Description: This presentation will review the CCAC animal care and use accreditation program and the current best practices used as benchmarks for site visits. Common deficiencies and best practices for animal care and use programs and facilities will be presented.*
- The UK Home Office Perspective: Regulatory Compliance Issues and Best Practices for Animals Used for Toxicological Research and Testing**, Jon Richmond, UK Home Office Animals Scientific Procedures Division, UK Home Office, London, United Kingdom.  
*Description: This presentation will review regulatory compliance issues for toxicological research and testing facilities that must comply with European Union and UK animal welfare laws and regulations. The UK has the oldest animal protection laws in the world, and current regulations and policies are also considered to be the strictest in the world. Current best practices for animal care and use that are expected by the Home Office will be reviewed.*

**SOT Itinerary Information:**

Location: Room 1A (Convention Center)  
 Date/Time: Monday, March 6, 4:30–6:30 PM  
 Category: *Special Session Workshop: Animals in Research*