

2022/2023 NJABR 3Rs Webinar Series – Winter Series

Webinar 1 – November 15, 2022 – 1pm Eastern

Title: Fit for Purpose Assessment: A New Direction for IACUCs

Presenters

David K. Johnson, DVM, DACLAM

President, Cascades Biosciences Consultants, Sisters, OR

Louis J. DeTolla, VMD, PhD, DACLAM

Founding Director, Program of Comparative Medicine (retired)

University of Maryland, School of Medicine, Baltimore, MD

Paul Houghton, BS

Research Primatologist, Founder, CEO (retired) Primate Products Inc. & Panther Tracts Learning Center, Immokalee, FL

Abstract/Learning Objectives:

The function of the institutional animal care and use committee (IACUC) is the key component of oversight and approval of scientific research using live animals. A key responsibility of the IACUC is meeting the requirements of Special Considerations of the Guide: “Certain animal use protocols include procedures or approaches that require special consideration during the IACUC review process due to their potential for unrelieved pain or distress or other animal welfare concerns.” The well-established approach is the use of Risk Benefit that is based on this potential of pain and distress including defined mitigations. Risk Benefit criteria are objective, prospective, observable, definable, & quantifiable.

More recently, Harm Benefit has emerged based on a Europe Union law that was passed as a compromise between politicians and animal rights groups who were pressuring for a ban on nonhuman primate studies. Input was lacking from scientists and veterinarians. Harm is an emotive “loaded-term” that implicates scientists of conducting pain and distress to animals that invokes wrongdoing. Unfortunately, the term HBA has crept into the USA. After a critical evaluation of HBA, it offers no advantages and delays advances of scientific research. HBA poses a Harm to Biomedical Research and fails its own harm-benefit analysis.

A path forward is the application of Fit For Purpose that IACUCs can incorporate to their own defined process includes a Risk Benefit evaluation. Fit For Purpose addresses study design components of endpoints, technologies, rationale for data with statistical analyses, research communication plans, assessing the potential of pain and distress including mitigations. Benefits can be longer-term such as basic research or shorter-term such as translational studies. Fit for Purpose endpoints are objective that include the evaluation of potential pain or distress with appropriate mitigations.

Webinar 2 – November 30, 2022 – 1pm Eastern – Collaboration with NA3RsC

Title: Translational Digital Biomarkers in Drug Discovery & Development

Presenters:

Megan R. LaFollette, MS, PhD, Program Manager, North American 3Rs Collaborative
Natalie Bratcher-Petersen, 3Rs Scientific Liaison & Animal Welfare Specialist, AbbVie
Lucas Noldus, PhD, Founder and CEO, Noldus Information Technology BV
Stefano Gaburro, PhD, Scientific Director - Digilab Solutions, Tecniplast
Sean Maguire, VMD, MS, DACLAM, Comparative & Translational Sciences Director & Associate Fellow, GSK

Abstract/Learning Objectives:

In this webinar series, experts from the North American 3Rs Collaborative (NA3RsC) Translational Digital Biomarkers initiative will discuss the evidence, impact, and practical use of these technologies that provide novel insights for drug discovery and development (DDD). We will introduce you to our initiative's development and an overview of our recent publication titled "Emerging Role of Translational Digital Biomarkers Within Home Cage Monitoring Technologies in Preclinical Drug Discovery and Development." We will provide an overview of where digital biomarkers fit within DDD, consensus definitions of home cage monitoring, and digital biomarkers (DB) specifically for laboratory rodents. Presenters will speak to opportunities & challenges that the different DB technologies bring along with the data (from security to data analysis). Ultimately, you will receive end-users and tech providers' perspectives on critical points for a successful implementation.

Webinar 3 – January 10, 2023 – 1pm Eastern

Title: Does Rodent Enrichment Make **Sense Cents**?

Presenter: **Karena E. Thek**, MBA, CMAR, CSSGB, National Sales Manager, Bio-Serv

Abstract/Learning Objectives:

Environmental Enrichment (EE) is a very important aspect of good husbandry and care of our laboratory animals. The challenge when considering the use of rodent EE is understanding the purpose of enrichment and furthermore, knowing what kind of enrichment is species appropriate. Learning objectives include an overview of normal rodent behaviors, signs of maladaptive behaviors and discuss how EE can complement your overall rodent care program.

Webinar 4 – January 25, 2023 – 1pm Eastern

Title: The Evolution of AbbVie's Dog Socialization Program: Finding New Paths to Successful Research Dog Re-homing

Presenters:

Denice O'Connell, DVM, DACLAM
Director of Global Animal Welfare, AbbVie

Carolyn Allen, BS, CMAR, RLATG
Manager, Behavioral Management Program
AbbVie

Abstract/Learning Objectives:

Research institutions have long-established programs for the re-homing of research animals, including dogs. Since 2000, AbbVie has partnered with several agencies to facilitate retirement of research dogs in both the US and EU. The re-homing program is acknowledged by many as a model of success for the research community. The strength of AbbVie's program starts with the dedicated animal behavioral specialists who manage enrichment to support a variety of animal behavioral needs with an emphasis on social housing and provision of a variety of food treats, toys, and activities during the dogs' time in research. As dogs progress to retirement and re-homing, among other carefully considered activities, employees from across the company are invited to volunteer in AbbVie's dog socialization program where they interact with dogs in indoor and outdoor play areas. This webinar will review the progress of AbbVie's re-homing program over the decades with a focus on socialization, the steps taken to ensure success, and the promotion of animal welfare. The lessons learned will provide practical tips to improve research institutions' own re-homing programs.

Webinar 5 – February 1, 2023 – 1pm Eastern

Title: Get Creative: How to Incorporate the 3R's into Your In-house Training Program

Presenter: **Leah J. Schmidt, BS, RLATg**, Senior Training Specialist, University of Pennsylvania

Abstract/Learning Objectives:

Ensuring research staff are properly trained can be difficult for labs, especially those with limited resources; be it a lack of animals for training or budgetary constraints. If you are looking for unique and creative ways to offer training for lab personnel to practice procedures, such as restraint or injections, aseptic technique, surgical procedures, suturing, etc., all while focusing on the 3R's, this presentation will offer a variety of options to get you started. Various materials will be discussed that can be used to simulate animals, fur, skin, and even internal organs.

2022-2023 Webinar Series – Spring Series

The Spring Series will be held in early of 2023 and will coincide with the return of the popular *3Rs Sharing Conference*. After pausing the conference due to the realities of the COVID-19 pandemic, we are pleased to return our in-person, discussion-focused conference to our 3Rs programming. This year, we are excited to partner with colleagues from the North American 3Rs Collaborative to present the 2023 3Rs Sharing Conference in New Jersey.

The conference will focus on improving rigor and translatability in biomedical research through robust incorporation of the 3Rs and will explore the potential for integrating translational digital biomarkers, machine learning and non-animal technologies to advance rigor and translation. Presentations will address the use of current and emerging technologies to help guide future drug development strategy to advance next steps. In addition, the conference will discuss study design, animal methodology, and, as always, best practices to promote laboratory animal welfare.

Sessions from the *3Rs Sharing Conference* will be integrated into the Spring Webinar Series for individuals who cannot attend the live event. Conference registration discounts will be offered to 3Rs Webinar Series participants. Additional conference details and registration information will be shared shortly.

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