



November 17, 2022

The NABR Update is a news summary of federal and state government affairs, animal rights activities, and other issues related to animal research that may have a direct effect on your organization or its constituents. It's an exclusive service available for NABR members only. If your organization is interested in joining NABR or if you have any questions or suggestions, please email us at info@nabr.org.

FEDERAL

Capitol Hill Update

As Congress returns to Washington after a long recess for midterm elections, many items are on the agenda before the end of the 117th Congress. A year end omnibus packaging together several items is on the docket as members of the House and Senate push their priorities forward. This includes changes to fiscal policies such as additional aid to Ukraine, recession relief, raising the debt ceiling, and changes to Medicare. Along with these agenda items, lawmakers need to come to an agreement to avert a government shutdown when current funding expires on Dec. 16. The end of the 117th Congress will certainly be busy as lawmakers work to pass important legislation during the lame duck session.

Reminder: OLAW Listserv Transitioning to New Platform

On Nov. 10, the OLAW listserv platform transitioned to a new email management software. As part of the transition, you may notice some changes to the formatting of OLAW email announcements.

What will change:

- *Going forward, the “From” email address will change from OLAWdpe@mail.nih.gov to OLAW@subscriptions.nih.gov. Be sure to put the new address on your safe senders list to ensure that you continue to receive important OLAW updates!*
- *No news will be sent from the OLAWdpe@mail.nih.gov address after today.*
- *We will continue to respond to messages sent to OLAWdpe@mail.nih.gov. You may continue to use this address if you need to contact the Division of Policy and Education regarding specific inquiries.*
- *Email formatting will change to look more like a newsletter rather than a text-based message.*

What will NOT change:

- *OLAW will continue to release newsflashes on the website in addition to listserv emails.*
- *The typical content of listserv emails will not change.*
- *Current listserv subscribers will NOT need to re-subscribe. Your subscription will carry over into the new software. Please let us know, however, if you experience an interruption in receiving messages and we will gladly work with you to resolve any issues.*

IACUC 101 Plus Workshop - NEW Wildlife Module!

On Nov. 4, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) announced their November virtual IACUC 101 Plus workshop that will be held over 2 half-days on November 17-18, 2022.

This workshop explores IACUC fundamentals and is appropriate for new and seasoned IACUC members, IACUC affiliates, and individuals responsible for their institution's animal care and use program. The course provides a basic yet comprehensive overview of the laws, regulations, and policies that govern the humane care and use of research animals. Be sure to tune in for regulatory and accreditation updates from OLAW, USDA, and AAALAC and check out the new wildlife module! Please note that the session will not be recorded, so be sure to sign up and stay in the know!

Registration for the workshop is available [here](#).

NHP Public Session: Committee on the State of the Science and Future Needs for Nonhuman Primate Model Systems

On Nov. 21, from 9:30 am-1 pm ET, the Committee on the State of the Science and Future Needs for Nonhuman Primate Model Systems, on which ILAR is a collaborator, will hold a final public session. The Committee seeks information from NIH on mechanisms to meet current and future NHP needs, as well as information on opportunities for NHP researchers to engage those working with new approaches and emerging methodologies. The agenda includes presentations and discussions to:

- *Engage NIH institutes, offices, and centers in discussions on opportunities and challenges for nonhuman primate (NHP) research and mechanisms for meeting current and future needs.*
 - *Explore current examples and future opportunities for collaboration between NHP researchers and those using new approach methodologies to complement*
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NHP research, increase the value of the models, and reduce reliance on NHPs where feasible.

The registration link is available [here](#).

Nature Article: US Agency Seeks to Phase Out Animal Testing

On Nov. 4, Nature released an article written by Rachel Nuwer on the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) commitment to exploring alternative methods to replace laboratory animals in developing new drugs and products.

The article highlights the ongoing efforts at the FDA's New Alternative Methods Program that focuses on replacing, reducing, and refining the use of laboratory animals through the adoption of cutting-edge alternative methods.

In the article, Rachel also explains that animal-based testing has been the gold standard for research for decades, and it remains an important requirement for establishing the safety and efficacy of products being brought to market today. But key differences exist between humans and the rodents, rabbits, non-human primates and other animals that researchers depend on for testing, and as biomedical understanding has advanced, scientists have begun to come up against the limitations of using other species as proxies for humans.

Paul Locke, an environmental-health scientist and lawyer at Johns Hopkins University who specializes in alternatives to animal testing, explains that *“for now, despite the promising alternatives to animal testing, federal regulators have approved only a few cutting-edge methods, and such techniques will not completely replace animal testing any time soon.”*

The full article can be seen [here](#).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

American Association for Laboratory Animal Science (AALAS) Announces Deadline for a Grant for Laboratory Animal Science

The American Association for Laboratory Animal Science (AALAS) is pleased to announce that the next deadline for a Grant for Laboratory Animal Science application is February 1, 2023. Applications are sought for research projects that will promote the enhancement of scientific knowledge in laboratory animal health and welfare.

Since the first grants were awarded in 2007, the GLAS program has awarded 92 research grants that added new knowledge to laboratory animal science. The grant categories are Standard Grants for up to \$50,000 and Small Grants for up to \$7,500. Program information, the application form, and an application tutorial will be available at www.aalas.org/glas by December 1. If you need additional information, feel free to reach out to us at: glas@aalas.org.

Because the mission of the AALAS Grants for Laboratory Animal Science Program includes promoting collaborative efforts by the AALAS membership within the broader scientific community, the principal investigator must be an AALAS member, but co-investigators do not have to be AALAS members. There are no geographical restrictions concerning investigators or the institution, so international submissions are welcomed.

The Jackson Laboratory invites you to a Congressional Staff Briefing: “Using diverse mouse models for pre-clinical testing of treatments for human dementias and eye diseases”

On Nov. 17 from 4:00 pm-4:45 pm, the Jackson Laboratory will hold a Congressional staff briefing on “Using diverse mouse models for pre-clinical testing of treatments for human dementias and eye diseases”. Guest speakers will include Gareth Howell, Ph.D.

Professor, Diana Davis Spencer Foundation Chair for Glaucoma Research, and Alaina Reagan, Ph.D. Postdoctoral Associate.

The registration link can be found [here](#).

JANUARY WEBINAR: The FY 2022 USDA Oversight Process

Please join us on Jan. 12, 2023, for the first of NABR's 2023 Webinar series, "The FY 2022 USDA Oversight Process."

Each year NABR obtains information from the USDA's Animal Care Inspection System database using the Public Search Tool to review the inspection results for the previous fiscal year and provides a review and analysis of that information. The Public Search Tool was updated in September of 2020. In addition to the inspection reports, the number of Teachable Moments (TMs) issued during each inspection and the actual documentation for TMs has been posted as of January 2020. The Public Search tool website also contains information on enforcement actions including letters of warning and stipulation agreements. The number of inspections conducted in FY 2021 appeared to have returned to the level prior to the pandemic. However, the number of citations appeared to have increased, which raised concerns about an increased level of scrutiny during the inspection process. Subsequent analysis of the data indicated that this was not the case, and a preliminary analysis of the FY 2022 data appears to confirm that fact.

In this webinar, we will present our annual review of the inspection data along with an analysis of the type of noncompliant items (NCIs) cited and the enforcement actions taken as result of select citations issued. We will also review the potential impact that the discontinuation of the use of TMs will have on the FY2023 inspection process.

Registration is available [here](#).

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