



August 24, 2023

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](mailto:info@nabr.org).

## **NHP Update**

### **Senator Rubio Sends a Letter to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Addressing the NHP Crisis**

On August 15, 2023, Sen. Rubio (R-FL) sent a letter to Dr. Lawrence Tabak, Director of the National Institutes of Health, highlighting the important role nonhuman primates play in the nation's biomedical research innovation.

In the letter, Sen. Rubio raised concerns that the shortage of monkeys could negatively impact the United States' ability to remain the global leader in biomedical research.

Senator Rubio wrote, *"One of the biggest factors in the shortage of nonhuman primates was the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) decision to block the export of laboratory monkeys in 2020 under the questionable justification that doing so would prevent the "spread of the coronavirus." In 2019, the U.S.*

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*imported 20,270 lab monkeys from the People's Republic of China, making up 60 percent of its total imports. Given that the CCP has long held a goal to achieve dominance in the industries that will define the 21st century, it is safe to assume that it will continue to restrict the export of nonhuman primates in order to maintain an edge in developing the latest innovations in drug and device research.”*

NABR applauds these efforts and will continue working with stakeholders and Congress to find solutions to the NHP crisis impacting life-saving biomedical research.

The letter can be accessed [here](#).

**BACKGROUND:** Following a decision by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to deny permits for non-human primates (NHPs) used for essential research, NABR began working with stakeholders to educate members of Congress and highlight the gravity of the situation.

Without continued access to NHPs for research, the United States biopharmaceutical pipeline will slow down significantly and impair research and scientific advancements. There are estimated to be 17,752 individual products currently in the U.S. R&D pharmaceutical pipeline, accounting for 47% of the global R&D pipeline. Of these, it is estimated that 56% have used or will require the use of NHPs during their development.

If NHPs are no longer available, these preclinical drug projects may grind to a halt- this includes drugs for cancer, diabetes, and neurodegenerative diseases, as well as vaccines.

### **Update on Case of Cambodian Forestry Official in FL Federal District Court**

Lawyers representing the defense have filed a motion seeking to interview witnesses. In an interesting turn of events, defense counsel included an exhibit

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that consists of a letter to the U.S. Department of Justice arguing that in the course of the law firm's own investigation U.S. Fish and Wildlife agents "executed an unlawful covert operation in Cambodia... without the consent or knowledge of that nation's government." The letter, addressed to DOJ's Office of International Affairs, requests the initiation of an investigation into misconduct by the prosecution and a motion to dismiss the indictment.

The letter further revealed the operation was shockingly labelled "**Operation Longtail Liberation**", a name that may evoke images of the Animal Liberation Front in the minds of some longtime NABR Update readers.

Perhaps even more concerning, according to the defense, "This USFWS operation included the use of at least one paid Chinese-national as an undercover operative to conduct secret electronic surveillance of multiple Cambodian government officials – including our client – in clear violation of Cambodian law...The espionage activities undertaken by the USFWS agents and their paid Chinese informant on private property resulted in clear violations of Cambodian law."

Stay tuned for more updates from NABR on this high-profile case. Read the letter in its entirety [here](#).

## **FEDERAL**

### **Fall 2023 AWIC Workshop: Meeting the Requirements of the Animal Welfare Act**

Registration is open for the free Animal Welfare Information Center (AWIC) workshop!

**The workshop will be held virtually on Oct.11 and 12 from 1 pm-4 pm.**

*Learning objectives include:*

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- *An overview of the Animal Welfare Act and its regulations;*
- *An introduction to AWIC and other 3Rs organizations;*
- *A review of the 3Rs alternatives concept;*
- *Guidance for where to find 3Rs literature and resources;*
- *Instruction on database literature searching techniques (e.g. search syntax); and*
- *A demonstration of an alternatives literature search.*

*A representative of OLAW will also be present to provide regulatory updates regarding topics covered under the PHS Policy.*

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

### **IACUC Administrators Association (IAA) Webinar**

*Fall dates for IAA webinars have been announced! To read more about each webinar and register, visit the IAA homepage and click on each event under "Upcoming Events." Please direct all questions to the IACUC Administrators Association.*

- *September 6, 2023: Transgenic Animals, Regulatory Expectations*
- *September 20, 2023: Using Active Learning to Train the IACUC*
- *September 28, 2023: Cephalopods- IACUC Oversight or Not?*

The IAA website and registration can be found [here](#).

### **Information on the Upcoming IACUC 101/201**

*IACUC 101/201 PLUS program is 2 full days of didactic and interactive educational opportunities for both new and seasoned IACUC members, IACUC affiliates, and others who contribute to their institution's animal care and use program. The "Plus" portion of this 2-day program includes additional Occupational Health and Safety, Wildlife and Post Approval Monitoring modules, as well as updates from USDA and OLAW and a provocative and highly interactive faculty skit that will surely get the conversations flowing.*

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*Didactic sessions address institutional responsibilities, IACUC charges, relevant informational resources, animal welfare laws, regulations and policies, and best practices. Students also are challenged to consider, deliberate, and develop action plans for a variety of potential IACUC scenarios.*

*This highly interactive, advanced program provides multiple opportunities to engage in real life applications of the basic concepts with the goals of learning new approaches and gaining new perspectives for managing issues that many animal care and use programs face.*

**IACUC 101/201 will be held in person in Memphis, TN on Sept. 26-27.**

More information on the program and a link to register is available [here](#).

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **NABR Webinar: Review of the Veterinary Consortium for Research Animal Care and Welfare (VCRACW) Guide Revision Survey**

Join us on Wednesday, November 8, 2023, when Dr. Kate Storves will **Review the Veterinary Consortium for Research Animal Care and Welfare (VCRACW) Guide Revision Survey**. The survey was developed to provide specific input on what areas the user community thought should be prioritized in an effort to update the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (The Guide)*. In 2022, the survey was sent to members of ACLAM, ASLAP, APV, and AALAS. Respondents were asked to rank the top three chapters in order of most in need of revision to least. Next, the respondents were asked to rank the sections within each chapter in most need of revision to least. The survey also included open-ended questions asking respondents to describe key issues that needed to be revised by chapter and what new sections or topics they would like to see addressed and to include any applicable references. Based upon the results of that survey a five-question survey was sent to the ACLAM membership prior to the 2023 Forum and the results of both the initial survey

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and the five-question survey will be presented in this webinar. In addition, we are requesting that you participate in a six-question survey which includes a question on your role in your institution's animal care and use program.

The survey can be accessed [here](#).

Register for the webinar [here](#).

### **OLAW Fall Webinar to be Held on September 14, 2023**

OLAW will be hosting a fall webinar to explore the [NC3Rs Experimental Design Assistant](#) (EDA).

*The EDA helps users build a diagram representing an experimental plan, provides customized feedback, and can make suggestions on statistical methods, randomization, blinding, sample sizes, and other critical design aspects. Dr. Esther Pearl, NC3Rs Programme Manager for Experimental Design, will discuss how the EDA can assist research staff, how it can simplify protocol review for IACUCs, and will demonstrate features of this free resource.*

**This webinar will be held on September 14, 2023, from 1-2 pm.**

More information and registration for the webinar can be found [here](#).