

November 20, 2015

P. Michael Conn, Ph.D.
Senior Vice President for Research
and Associate Provost
Robert C. Kimbrough Professor of Internal Medicine,
Cell Biology and Biochemistry
Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center
3601 4th Street, Stop 6252
Lubbock, TX 79430-6252



Dear Dr. Conn:

The Council on Accreditation of the Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care (AAALAC International) has reviewed the report of the recent site visit to the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, Texas Tech University System, Lubbock, Amarillo, Abilene, and El Paso, Texas. The Council commends you and the staff for providing and maintaining a quality program of laboratory animal care and use. Especially noteworthy were the excellent institutional support to the program, evidenced in part by the recent purchase of a new cage and rack washer to be installed in the Lubbock facility, and by the administration/personnel at the El Paso facility who were knowledgeable and committed to ensuring a successful animal care and use program as an important component of their future research program expansion; the active and engaged Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) that provided very thorough protocol reviews and was well constituted at each campus with scientific, nonscientific, and nonaffiliated members; the dedicated and knowledgeable facility managers, supervisors and staff members of the Laboratory Animal Resources Center; the thorough and detailed documentation, including standard operating procedures, policies, protocols and training records; and the effective veterinary medical care program, with animals observed to be in good health and appropriate reporting and addressing of animal health issues. The Council is pleased to inform you that the program conforms with AAALAC International standards as set forth by the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*, NRC 2011. Therefore, **FULL ACCREDITATION** shall continue.

Council acknowledges receipt of the correspondence dated August 30 and June 26, 2015 detailing actions taken relative to concerns expressed by the site visitors during the exit briefing. Specifically, the items addressed satisfactorily included: enhancing the safety of personnel using walk-in cage and rack washers; re-evaluating the flow rate of carbon dioxide into chambers for rodent euthanasia; addressing the use of biological indicators for the autoclave in the El Paso Biosafety Level (BSL)-3 facility and signage for hazards in the Abilene facility; providing emergency eyewash and shower stations in the Lubbock facility, and periodically testing this equipment in all facilities; ensuring that policies for wearing appropriate personal protective equipment are consistently followed; re-evaluating the use of static, open top rodent cages and soiled bedding dumping practices to ensure personnel health and safety; providing for appropriate scavenging of waste anesthetic gas; implementing the IACUC policy regarding the use of non-pharmaceutical-grade substances; re-evaluating rodent survival surgical practices to ensure proper

P. Michael Conn, Ph.D.
November 20, 2015
Page 2

aseptic technique; implementing comprehensive testing of cell lines and other materials for exclusion of rodent pathogens; and re-evaluating sanitation practices to minimize insect access.

Council has no further recommendations to offer for improvement of the animal care and use program at this time. We look forward to following your program activities and wish you continued success.

AAALAC International requires an Annual Report detailing changes made during the year in accredited units. In the interim, AAALAC International expects to be apprised in a timely manner of significant programmatic changes or concerns should they occur. Please note that, at your request, AAALAC International will provide your institution with a separate letter simply verifying that your animal care and use program is accredited. Should you also wish to distribute an electronic copy of this letter to program staff, a Portable Document Format (pdf) version will be sent upon request.

Sincerely,



James R. Swearingen, D.V.M.
President, Council on Accreditation

JRS:kmt
000989

cc: Samuel Prien, Ph.D., Director of Clinical and Research Laboratory, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology
Gordon Brackee, D.V.M., M.S., Executive Director, Laboratory Animal Resources Center and Institutional Veterinarian