

November 20, 2012

Brian G. Stiller  
Medical Center Director  
VA Western New York Healthcare System  
3495 Bailey Avenue  
Buffalo, NY 14215

Dear Mr. Stiller:

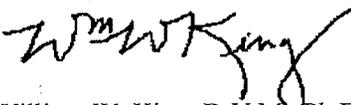
The Council on Accreditation of the Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care (AAALAC International) has reviewed the report of the recent site visit to the VA Western New York Healthcare System, Department of Veterans Affairs, Buffalo, New York. The Council commends you and the staff for providing and maintaining an excellent program of laboratory animal care and use. Especially noteworthy were the administrative support of the animal care and use program, evidenced by a culture of cooperation, compliance, and collegiality throughout all levels of the organization, and the engagement of the Institutional Official; the involvement of the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC), demonstrated by the engaged and knowledgeable IACUC Chair, the detailed IACUC records, and the thorough protocol review process; the level and quality of leadership and management of the Veterinary Medical Unit, evidenced by the clean facilities and healthy appearance of animals; the encouragement provided to employees for education, certification, and continuing education; and the environmental enrichment provided to all animals. 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 8, 2012 detailing actions taken relative to concerns expressed by the site visitors during the exit briefing. Specifically, the items addressed satisfactorily included: addressing concerns regarding requirements and the use of respirators; ensuring that all personnel at risk are given the opportunity to enroll in the Preventive Medicine Program regardless of contact time with animals; replacing the positive horizontal air flow clean benches used for changing cages; evaluating the genetic status of the in-house breeding colony of mice to ensure their appropriateness for continued use; and ensuring that expiration dates are documented on secondary containers.

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,



William W. King, D.V.M., Ph.D.  
President, Council on Accreditation

WWK:cmw  
VA-014

cc: Vijay Kumar, Ph.D., Associate Chief of Staff, Research and Development  
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