

October 27, 2017



Dear Research Faculty, Staff and Students:

It is my hope that this letter finds you well in spirit and health. As we are about half way through the academic year, I am reaching out to share updates about our animal facilities and our IACUC/IBC and Animal Care and Use programs.

As many of you know, Marquette University hired FLAD Architects to assist in the development of a comprehensive short- and long-range master plan for the Animal Resource Center. The focus of this master plan is on current and future programs and space needs, the capacity and rapidly growing research programs that utilize animals, as well as addressing the challenges that our facilities have so that we can operate appropriately. The final proposal is being reviewed by the Marquette University Leadership Counsel. Final approval is needed by the Board of Trustees to fund the multi-million dollar renovation project. As discussions have indicated the funding would be allocated over two fiscal years, Facilities Planning & Management has requested a proposed start date in spring 2019. Stay tuned as there are more discussions planned for January, 2018.

Master Plan Phase Zero has begun. This is the HVAC work that will be completed for the Schroeder and Wehr Life Science buildings to isolate the animal facility rooms so that they function on their own HVAC systems. This project, as proposed, should be completed by the end of December, 2017 for both our areas and will allow us the capability to expand our animal operations in the future. As construction may cause disruption in your areas, I appreciate your cooperation. Should you encounter any problems due to the construction, please let me know. We want to make every effort to mitigate any issues arising during the construction and would appreciate you letting us know should you encounter them in the facility.

Over the past several years, there have been updates to veterinary medicine and research practice as well as, guidance for rodent surgical procedures. In order to maintain our compliance with regulatory standards, an updated policy was necessary. In October, the IACUC had approved changes in policy on conducting rodent surgery at Marquette. The improvements made to the policy are on the topics of surgical training, surgery preparation and location, personal protective equipment for surgeons, rodent intra- and post-operative monitoring, record keeping and aseptic technique. We plan to issue a Memo in the next month to update everyone on the policy and procedures associated with the IACUC updates and will address the required surgical training that will be needed for anyone listed on an IACUC protocol as a surgeon.

AAALAC International is on their way to Marquette! It has already been three years since our last visit site. I received the letter in early October stating that our accredited animal care and use program is scheduled to be site revisited by AAALAC International during the summer of 2018. Over the next several months, and into the early part of 2018, I plan to work on updating our Program Description. AAALAC uses our Program Description as a guideline and process tool while they are on campus reviewing our animal care and use program and facilities. It is important that we be as accommodating as we can while the Animal Resource Center and Animal Care and Use Committee staff prepare the facility and labs for the summer 2018 site visit and I thank you in advance for your cooperation.

I would like to host our annual meeting in early January, 2018 before students come back to campus. This meeting will give us the opportunity to discuss important project and topics as well as, provide time for any questions that you may have. Please keep an eye out for that invitation as it will be sent electronically.

As always, I look forward to the continued and successful operation of all of our programs and your research efforts here at Marquette University. Whether it be the Animal Resource Center, the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, or the Institutional Biosafety Committee, my goal has, and always will be, to provide the best service possible for you and your research team. Thank you for the work that you do and the continued effort toward progress that you make to the betterment of human kind.

Best,



Austin Fritsch
Research Compliance Officer – *IACUC & IBC*
Director – Animal Resource Center