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Deans

Vice-Deans (Research)

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Dear colleagues

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY PRESIDENT (RESEARCH & TECHNOLOGY) CIRCULAR

Circular Number: DPRT-2014-05

NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN RESPONSIBLE CARE AND USE OF LABORATORY ANIMALS/FISH (RCULA/F) NUS TRAINING COURSE

Comparative Medicine (CM), together with the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC), are launching the practical component of the Responsible Care and Use of Fish for scientific purposes (RCUF) course on 19 November 2014. The will replace the biannual wet lab session given by the Department of Biological Sciences (DBS).

There will be three categories of practical training:

1. **Introductory (General) Session**, for all involved in the care and use of fish will cover sexing, netting, anesthesia, taking measurements, fin clipping, euthanasia etc.
2. **Advanced (Technique-specific) Session**, which will cover blood collection, injection and necropsy techniques.
3. **Customized (Protocol-specific) Sessions**, which will cover surgical techniques and other procedures described in the IACUC-approved protocol.

The introductory (general) training will be held at least three times per calendar year, while the advanced (technique-specific) and customized (protocol-specific) training will be available on an ad-hoc basis.

The prerequisite for attending the introductory training session is the successful completion of the two modules:

1. **RCULA Part 1C: RCUF (Fish for Scientific Purposes)** – online module covering the regulated, mandatory training related to the care and use of fish in biomedical research and training. This module has been approved by the NUS IACUC and will replace the RCUF lecture that was conducted by DBS.
2. **Working with Laboratory Zebrafish** – online module by AALAS (American Association of Laboratory Animal Sciences) which provides more information (e.g.

basic anatomy, water quality, nutrition, technical procedures) on the care and use of fish.

There is also another optional online module, **Aquatics Animal Husbandry and Management**, which may be recommended by the Training Coordinator depending on the nature of the user's work.

I am also pleased to announce that the RCUF hands-on training fees of \$100 nett will be waived for all NUS staff and students for at least one year.

The schedule of the hands-on session will be made available on the IACUC website. If you have questions in the meantime, please contact Mr. Shawn Tay (email lactayyq@nus.edu.sg phone 6601-3005) or Miss Deniscia Low (email lacddl@nus.edu.sg phone 6601-3924) for assistance.

With many thanks and best regards

Professor Barry Halliwell
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