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MEMORANDUM TO: University Community

FROM: Paul J. Fonteyn, Provost and
Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

SUBJECT: Required Training for Research with Laboratory Animals

The university's Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) must review all research and research-related activity proposed by any member of the UMass Boston community that involves laboratory animals in any way. This requirement is based upon our animal welfare assurance given to the federal Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare of the Department of Health and Human Services. This assurance states that all UMass Boston researchers—faculty members, students, administrators, staff members—are aware of and follow all federal rules and regulations concerning the protection of laboratory animals contained in the *Animal Welfare Act* (1966, as amended 1976; 7 U.S.C. 2131 et seq.; 9 CFR 93) and as stated in the *U.S. Government for Principles for Utilization and Care of Vertebrate Animals Used in Testing, Research, and Training* (1985), and in the *Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* (1996).

Failure to follow the policies and procedures governing research with laboratory animals can lead not only to serious penalties for the individual violator, but also to serious sanctions against the entire university, including substantial fines, the suspension of federal funds and, in the most serious cases, debarment of all researchers at the university from seeking extramural support for sponsored research. All new applications, modification requests, continuation requests, and completion of activities reports for research with laboratory animals must be submitted to the university's IACUC for its review and action. Any adverse event in research with laboratory animals must be reported immediately to the IACUC, to be followed by a written report and supporting documentation. All IACUC forms and instructions may be obtained at the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs (ORSP).

UMass Boston has subscribed to the Laboratory Animal Training Association (LATA) program to provide web-based interactive training modules free for members of the university community. The base module provides a review of federal laws and regulations concerning the humane care and use of laboratory animals, as well as overviews of ethical principles, IACUC role and staff responsibilities, and information resources. The species modules cover topics in housing, social needs, nutrition, health considerations, handling, restraint, experimental techniques, environmental practices, and euthanasia of particular species of laboratory animals. The techniques modules demonstrate current acceptable practices and techniques. Each module has periodic questions that direct the participant to text and graphics for review if they are answered incorrectly. A correct

answer allows the participant to progress through the module. At the completion of each module an electronic message is sent to the UMass Boston IACUC administrator and a certificate is provided to the participant.

As of December 1, 2005, all individuals at UMass Boston who work with or have contact with laboratory animals (i.e., PIs, co-investigators, research assistants, student laboratory assistants) must complete the base module and appropriate species module, and if applicable, the techniques modules, in the LATA program in order to provide evidence of their understanding of the federal rules and regulations, as well as the UMass Boston policies and procedures, concerning research with laboratory animals. In particular, this evidence must be provided before the IACUC will consider the approval of new submissions, modifications, or continuation requests from PIs for research with laboratory animals. The release of university funds, whether from external or internal sponsors, which support a PI's research with laboratory animals, will require similar evidence. For students conducting research with laboratory animals, both the student and his or her faculty or staff sponsor must provide the required evidence. In addition, all students who, as part of an educational program or for the purposes of a classroom assignment, will be interacting with laboratory animals must provide the required evidence.

The web site Internet address for this training is <http://www.latanet.com/umb.htm>. For identification purposes, you will need a username and password to enter this site. Please enter the username "umb" (in all lowercase letters) and the password "beacons" (also in all lowercase letters). All fees for the online training modules are paid by the Office of the Vice Provost for Research. If you have questions about UMass Boston policy and procedures related to research with laboratory animals, or questions concerning the LATA training and how to register for the training, please call or e-mail Kristen Kenny at (617) 287-5374 or kristen.kenny@umb.edu. For additional information, please also refer to the IACUC web site at www.umb.edu/research/orsp/compliance/iacuc.html.

Thank you for your continuing assistance in ensuring that UMass Boston meets its obligations in this vital compliance area.

cc: J. Keith Motley, Ph.D., Chancellor
Celia Moore, Chair, IACUC