

WOAH Collaborative Centre Reports Activities 2023

Activities in 2023

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Centre Information

Title of WOA Collaborating Centre	Laboratory Animal Welfare and Science
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Name Director of Institute (Responsible Official):	Kavita Berger and Robin Schoen
Name (including Title and Position) of Head of the Collaborating Centre (WOAH Contact Point):	Susana Rodriguez, Ph.D., Program Officer
Name of the writer:	Susana Rodriguez

TOR1 AND 2: SERVICES PROVIDED

1. Activities as a centre of research, expertise, standardisation and dissemination of techniques within the remit of the mandate given by WOA

Category	Title of activity	Scope
Training, capacity building (true)	"Effective Communication with the General Public about Scientific Research that Requires the Care and use of Animals"-A Workshop	<p>The workshop was held on December 19-20, 2023.</p> <p>The purpose of the workshop was to improve scientific communications with the public on the care and use of animals in research. The workshop held sessions on the topics: concerns of the media; concerns of non-scientists, inadequately communicated topics, making communication effective, communicating about NAMS, considerations along the spectrum of openness, concerns of Institutional Leadership, communicating about ethics, communicating on social media, the U.S. Animal Research Openness Initiative (USARO). The workshop culminated with a panel discussion and wrap up. The agenda, meeting book, workshop resources, and video recordings of the workshop are available on the event page. Workshop proceedings are expected to be available on the National Academies Press website in June 2024.</p>
		<p>To promote responsible science and One Health related issues, a committee of 9 experts were identified and approved by the National Academies of Sciences to conduct several project tasks. These</p>

<p>Zoonoses (true)</p>	<p>Regional Guidelines for High-Consequence Pathogen Samples in the Punjab Province of Pakistan</p>	<p>tasks include developing guidelines for securely collecting and transporting samples in Pakistan. The committee planned and facilitated two 3-day hybrid workshops, the first of which focused on developing guidelines for safe and secure sample collection and transport of high consequence pathogens in Pakistan (May 2023) and the second was a training for veterinarians, transportation specialists, field biologists, and policymakers on the same topic (June 2023).</p>
<p>Wildlife (true)</p>	<p>Standing Committee on the Care and Use of Animals in Research</p>	<p>The standing committee provides a venue for the exchange of ideas and knowledge sharing among federal government agencies, the private sector, academic communities, and other stakeholders engaged in animal research, animal studies and humane animal use by scientists in a variety of topical areas and settings. Three wildlife experts are appointed to the standing committee. The standing committee held 5 listening sessions dedicated to the discussion on the unique animal welfare challenges of conducting wildlife, non-model species, and biodiversity research and educational activities in natural and/or captive settings. The five sessions had 82 invited participants and focused on the topics: mammals, amphibians and reptiles, wild fish, zebrafish, and cephalopods.</p>
<p>Animal welfare (true)</p>	<p>Future Topical Updates to the "Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals" A workshop</p>	<p>A workshop planning committee was approved by the National Academies to explore topics of interest related to potential, future updates to the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (the Guide, 8th edition, NRC 2011). The workshop will build upon listening sessions hosted by the Standing Committee for the Care and Use of Animals in Research. The listening sessions explored various themes to inform future updates or revisions to the Guide. The workshop will also serve as an event to share information and gather knowledge on topics including, but not limited to: the role of regulatory agency policies and their impact on the Guide; possible new dissemination formats and content management of the Guide; use of terminology in the Guide; topics related to institutional animal care and use committees (IACUCs); topics related to housing, international housing regulations, and their impacts on animal behavior and welfare; relevant guidelines that could be included in the Guide to support recommendations. The workshop is scheduled for April 23-24, 2024. Information about the workshop is available on the project page.</p>
<p>Training, capacity building (true)</p>	<p>Roundtable on Science and Welfare of Animals Involved in Research</p>	<p>Established in 2014, the Roundtable provides a neutral forum to stimulate dialogue, catalyze movement around issues, and collaborate among those interested in promoting more effective, efficient, and humane use of research with animals, welfare, and education. The roundtable consists of from different disciplines, sectors, and organizations from government, industry, advocacy, professional societies, and academic institutions. The Roundtable updated its name from the "Roundtable on Science and Welfare in Laboratory Animal Use" to "Roundtable on Science Welfare of Animals Involved in Research." The members updated their organizational structure and statement of task to reflect current priorities.</p>

Training, capacity building (true)	Regional Guidelines for High-Consequence Pathogen Samples in the Punjab Province of Pakistan	Facilitated a 3-day hybrid workshop on advanced-level training for the safe and secure sample collection and transportation of zoonotic to enhance one health infectious disease surveillance and research in Pakistan. The workshop was held June on 18-21, 2023. The program focused on sample collection techniques, transportation approaches, sampling types, quality control, biosafety measures, and biosecurity measures. This training was based on the guidelines developed by the expert committee and the training material provided by Health Security Partners. Workshop participants complete pre- and post-training assessments of the knowledge about safe and secure collection and transport of samples containing high consequences pathogens. The average participant knowledge increased from 39.17% before the training to 88.33% after the training.
Animal Welfare (true)	"Effective Communication with the General Public about Scientific Research that Requires the Care and use of Animals"-A Workshop	The Roundtable hosted the hybrid workshop on December 19-20, 2023. To better assist the workshop planning committee, a public opinion analysis firm was contracted to conduct a public questionnaire to query public views, knowledge, and values pertaining to research with animals. The results of the survey informed the topic areas of the workshop. The workshop consisted of presentations with Q&A, panel discussions, mock interviews and dialogue analysis, and polling of the attendees for feedback.
Biosafety and biosecurity (true)	Regional Guidelines for High-Consequence Pathogen Samples in the Punjab Province of Pakistan	Guided expert committee, mostly from Pakistan, to develop regional guidelines for the safe and secure collection and transportation of high-consequence pathogen samples in Pakistan. Experts from WOA, WHO, and Sandia National Laboratories provided information about biorisk management during sample collection and transport.
Animal Welfare (true)	"Contingency Planning and Training of Personnel Rule (APHIS-2020-0101), One Year of Implementation - A Workshop"	The U.S. Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) requested a workshop, under the auspices of the Roundtable, on lessons learned from implementation of its regulation on contingency plans for animal care during emergencies (e.g., hurricanes). A workshop proposal was approved and a call to identify subject matter experts to comprise the workshop planning committee was conducted in the fall of 2023. The workshop is scheduled to be held in the Spring of 2024. Information about the workshop is available on the project page.

TOR3: HARMONISATION OF STANDARDS

2. Proposal or development of any procedure that will facilitate harmonisation of international regulations applicable to the main focus area for which you were designated

Proposal title	Scope/Content	Applicable area
Regional Guidelines for High-Consequence Pathogen Samples in the Punjab Province of Pakistan	The safe and secure collection and transportation of collecting and transporting high-consequence pathogen samples in Pakistan. This training was based on the guidelines developed by the expert committee and the training material provided by Health Security Partners.	Laboratory expertise Training and education
	The Standing Committee was appointed and convened throughout 2021 for the exchange of ideas and for knowledge	

<p>Standing Committee on the Care and Use of Animals in Research</p>	<p>sharing among federal government agencies, the private sector, academic communities, and other stakeholders engaged in the care, use, science and welfare of animals in research, training programs, experimentation, biological testing or for other related purposes or other special categories involving animals. Standing committee activities have a very broad reach, well beyond laboratory animals, to include: wildlife, agricultural animals, non-model species, service animals, companion animals and other animals used in natural and captive research, field, exhibition settings. The committee will be used to inform any future updates or additions to The Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals and related products that will be generated by separate, ad hoc committees associated with this project. We are implementing a new five phase process for revisions to the Guide. Phase 1 includes the new standing committee holding listening sessions so stakeholder communities are given the opportunity to contribute. Since 1963 the Guide has been the single document used globally to facilitate harmonization of international standards and guidelines.</p>	<p>Laboratory expertise Training and education health management Wildlife health and biodiversity</p>
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3. In exercising your activities, have you identified any regulatory research needs* relevant for WOA?H?

No

4. Did your Collaborating Centre maintain a network with other WOA?H Collaborating Centres (CC), Reference Laboratories (RL), or organisations designated for the same specialty, to coordinate scientific and technical studies?

Yes

Name of WOA?H CC/RL/other organisation(s)	Location	Region of networking Centre	Purpose
International Council for Laboratory Animal Science	Virtual	Africa Americas Asia and Pasific Europe MiddleEast	International cooperation in laboratory animal science. Our aims are to promote and coordinate the development of laboratory animal science throughout the world, to promote international collaboration and quality monitoring and definition of laboratory animals, to collect and disseminate information and to promote the humane use of animals in research through recognition of ethical principles and scientific responsibilities.
Regional Guidelines for High-Consequence Pathogen Samples in the Punjab Province of Pakistan	Pakistan	Asia and Pasific	Strengthen the capacity of higher education institutions, government departments, and environmental bodies in Pakistan on safe and secure sample collection and Transportation of high consequence, zoonotic pathogens.

TOR4 AND 5: NETWORKING AND COLLABORATION

5. Did your Collaborating Centre maintain a network with other WOA?H Collaborating Centres, Reference laboratories, or organisations in other disciplines, to coordinate scientific and technical studies?

No

TOR6: EXPERT CONSULTANTS

6. Did your Collaborating Centre place expert consultants at the disposal of WOA?H?

Yes

NAME OF EXPERT	KIND OF CONSULTANCY	SUBJECT
<p>Several experts from various organizations: Eight staff from the Association for Biorisk Management Pakistan (ABM); Consultants from Health Security Partners, including Javed Khan, Program Director. The Planning Committee was comprised of the following experts: Aamer Ikram, Chair, Executive Director,, National Institutes of Health, Pakistan; Muhammad Imran Arshad, Associate Professor, Institute of Microbiology, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad, Pakistan; Zahida Fatima, Principal Scientific Officer, Animal Sciences Division, Pakistan Agricultural Research Council; Hamid Irshad, Principal Scientific Officer, National Agricultural Research Centre, Pakistan, Animal Health Programme, Animal Sciences Institute; Aneela Javed, Associate Professor, Atta ur Rehman School of Applied Biosciences, National University of Sciences and Technology; Christine Petersen, Professor, Department of Epidemiology, University of Iowa College of Public Health; Muhammad Usman Qamar, Assistant Professor, Department of Microbiology, Government College University Faisalabad, Peter Rabinowitz, Professor, Department of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences, Director, Center for One Health Research, University of Washington; Muhammad Kashif Saleemi, Associate Professor, Department of Pathology, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad</p>	<p>The Committee on developing regional guidelines for safely and securely collecting and transporting high consequence pathogens in Pakistan.</p>	<p>Capacity Building in Pakistan (e.g., live animal wet markets, academic institutions, public health experts, food safety and livestock agencies) to raise biorisk awareness.</p>

TOR7: SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL TRAINING

7. Did your Collaborating Centre provide advice/services to requests from Members in your main focus area?

Yes

BAHSCR staff guided a NASEM appointed planning committee of Pakistani and International experts to convene a group of collaborators to inform the revision, completion, and dissemination of Pakistani multi-sectoral guidelines for securely collecting and transporting dangerous samples in the Punjab province. BASHCR staff, planning

committee and collaborators facilitated committee organized and facilitated two 3-day hybrid workshops, the first of which focused on developing guidelines for safe and secure sample collection and transport of high consequence pathogens in Pakistan (May 2023) and the second was a training for veterinarians, transportation specialists, field biologists, and policymakers on the same topic (June 2023).

8. Did your Collaborating Centre provide scientific and technical training, within the remit of the mandate given by WOA, to personnel from WOA Members?

No

TOR8: SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS

9. Did your Collaborating Centre organise or participate in the organisation of scientific meetings related to your main focus area on behalf of WOA?

No

TOR9: DATA AND INFORMATION DISSEMINATION

10. Publication and dissemination of any information within the remit of the mandate given by WOA that may be useful to Members of WOA

a) Articles published in peer-reviewed journals:

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-*Nonhuman Primate Models in Biomedical Research: State of the Science and Future Needs*

-*Animal Welfare Challenges in Research and Education on Wildlife, Non-Model Animal Species and Biodiversity: Proceedings of a Workshop*

b) International conferences:

c) National conferences:

d) Other (Provide website address or link to appropriate information):

11. What have you done in the past year to advance your area of focus, e.g. updated technology?

12. Additional comments regarding your report: