ANIMAL TRANSPORT INTO HUMAN PATIENT CARE AREAS
FOR UTILIZATION OF DIAGNOSTIC AND TREATMENT FACILITIES
FOR DUKE IACUC-APPROVED ANIMAL RESEARCH
(Approved by the Medical Center Executive Committee: September 24, 2009; Most Recent IACUC Review/Approval: June 25, 2015)

PERFORMANCE STANDARD: Researchers having an IACUC-approved justification for specific procedures using Medical Center equipment will complete the activity as approved by the Dean, SOM.

BACKGROUND: IACUC-approved animal research may require specific devices (e.g., MRI, CT, etc.) in Duke human patient care facilities normally used for diagnostic or therapeutic procedures for human patients. In such instances, the institution and the research participants collective share the obligation to perform animal activities without impact to human patients and non-research staff while assuring integrity of the research results and animal welfare. Protective postures which assure all measures commonly include:

1) Keeping animals out of sight of human patients;
2) Preventing verbalization by animals while in human patient areas;
3) Minimizing/eliminating distinctive or offensive odors;
4) Minimizing/eliminating patient exposure to allergens;
5) Minimize/eliminate patient exposure risks to infectious agents;
6) Minimize/eliminate adverse impact to research results; and
7) Minimize/eliminate adverse impacts to animal welfare & well-being.

Animal Transport Committee membership: The Animal Transport Committee (ATC) consists of the following individuals:

1) Director, Infectious Disease Control & Epidemiology (or designee)
2) Director, Employee Occupational Health and Wellness (or designee)
3) Director, Occupational and Environmental Safety Office (or designee)
4) Director, Division of Laboratory Animal Resources (or designee)
5) Director, Office of Animal Welfare Assurance (or designee)

POLICY OUTLINE: There are several required actions before researchers may use Medical Center patient care equipment or patient care spaces.

1) IACUC-approved Protocol: Any use of patient care space is predicated upon a Duke IACUC-approved protocol which describes the necessity and scientific/technical justification for the specialized equipment in human patient care areas. The application for animal use to the Duke IACUC must include a completed ‘Section O’ which details the proposed activities, including the route of transport, specific devices required, use plan, sanitation plan, space recovery plan, and exit plan.
2) **Animal Transport Manager (ATM):** The Principal Investigator (PI) must identify an individual (generally one of the team senior members) who will serve as the laboratory ATM for the animal transport and use activity. This may be the PI or any other member of the laboratory, preferably a Research Animal Coordinator (RAC).

3) **Training:** The ATM will receive specified training prior to the approval of the animal transport plan. Training may be a web-based module (preferred) or verbal. The specified training is designed by the consolidated efforts of Infection Control, EOHW, OESO, DLAR, and OAWA; and will be focused to laboratory, species, and equipment required and will include:
   a. General sanitation expectations and management expectations for refuse.
   b. Disinfection selection and use.
   c. Safety concerns for patients, non-patients, and researchers.
   d. Animal care & support provisions (including transport requirements)
   e. Emergency actions & contacts (if needed)

4) **Transportation of animals:** While small animals (e.g. mice, rats) may be transported by the ATM and laboratory staff, generally larger animals require special equipment and specialized handling. The DLAR Operations Supervisor (919.684.6792) will assist with studies using swine, canine, feline, primate or other.

5) **Approval Process:**
   a. **Subcommittee walk-through:** A subcommittee of at least two members of the ATC and the Principal Investigator (or designated ATM), and the Chair of the Department in charge of the requested patient care facilities (or designee) shall perform a physical walk of the route that is proposed for animal transport. The walk shall initiate at the first point of entry into a human healthcare facility, and pass each segment of the journey to the proposed equipment. If a separate route for exit is required, then the route to the last point of human healthcare facilities shall be walked.

   b. **Animal Transport Committee approval:** Upon conclusion of the walk-through and with necessary modifications agreed by the subcommittee, the PI (or ATM) and the Chair (or designee); OAWA shall prepare a written report and recommendation. The report and recommendation is shared with the Animal Transport Committee for review, modification, and/or accept. The Committee is given three (3) days for response, after which and assuming a majority of the Committee has responded in the affirmative, a recommendation will be submitted to the Dean, SOM.

   c. **Approval:** The Dean, SOM serves as the approving authority for the proposed use of human patient care spaces.

   d. **Notification:** The OAWA will notify the researcher when approval has granted.

   e. **Performance of the research:** The ATM will coordinate the use of the approved space with the department or service that manages the specific equipment required for research. Coordination with DLAR, campus security, or other entities may be required to assure smooth and problem-free use of the space.

   f. **Adverse Events:** Any adverse events which occur while using the human patient care space for research activities will be reported to the IACUC using the Adverse Event Report Form. OAWA will coordinate as appropriate with OESO, EOHW, Infection Control, DLAR, others to address the concerns reported.
APPENDIX 1

CURRENT CONTACTS
(June 2015)

Infection Prevention Program
• Pam Isaacs, RN
• Nancy Strittholt, RN (Infection Prevention Nurse)
• Luke Chen, MD

Employee Occupational Health and Wellness
• Carol Epling, MD
• George Jackson, MD

Occupational and Environmental Safety Office
• Wayne R. Thomann, PhD

Division of Laboratory Animal Resources
• John N. Norton, DVM, PhD
• Randall Reynolds, DVM

Office of Animal Welfare Assurance
• Ron E. Banks, DVM
• Anna Hampton, DVM