

# **Animal Care & Use Program (ACUP) Quarterly Informational Meeting**

**August 27, 2026  
1:30pm CST via Teams**

# **Administrative Updates**

# Congratulations



**Erin Yu, DVM, DACLAM**

Executive Director, ACUP

Attending Veterinarian

Director, Division of Animal Care

Associate Professor, Department of  
Pathology, Microbiology & Immunology

# Other Leadership Changes



**Incoming CEO  
for Vanderbilt Health**  
David C. Miller, MD, MPH

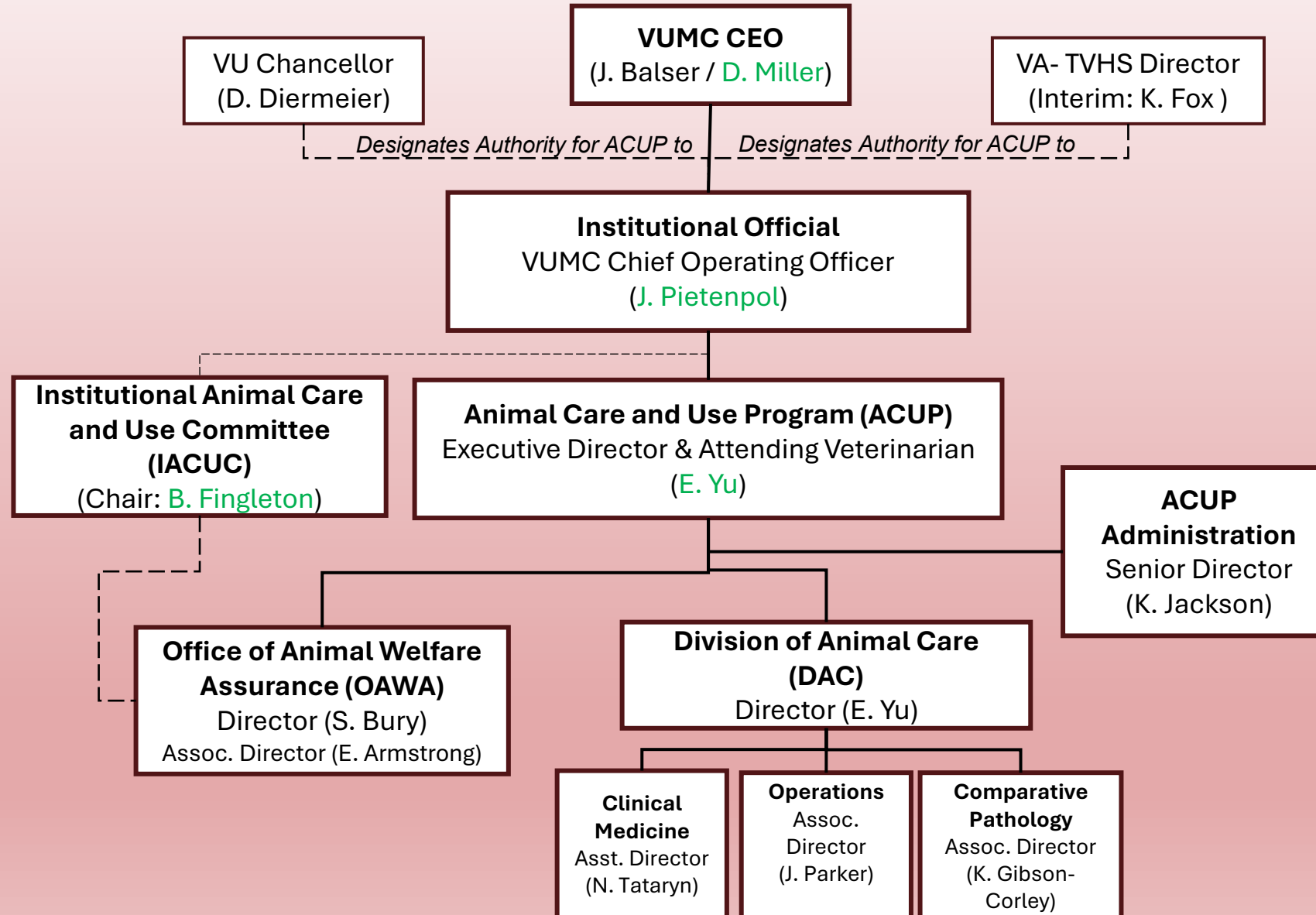


**New Institutional Official for ACUP**  
Jennifer Pietenpol, PhD



**New IACUC Chair**  
Barbara Fingleton, PhD

# ACUP Org Chart



# Congratulations

**Katherine Gibson-Corley, DVM, PhD, DACVP**

Director, Division of Comparative Medicine

Associate Director of Comparative Pathology, DAC

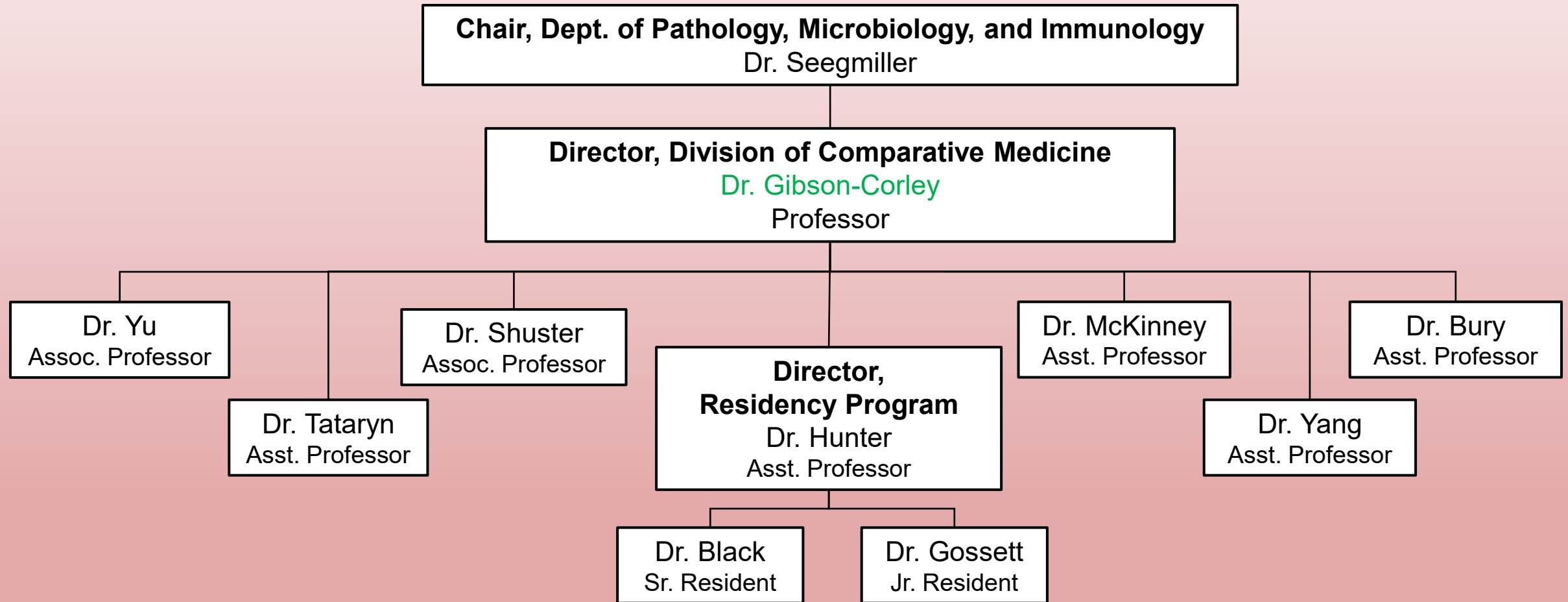
Director, Comparative Pathology and  
Research Histology, TPSR

Professor, Department of Pathology,  
Microbiology & Immunology

Professor, Department of Surgery



# Division of Comparative Medicine Org Chart



# Congratulations



**Courtney Martin**

**Facility Manager**

PRB, MMPC, ESB, MCN II 7 & 8,  
Barrier, and Neuro

# Congratulations



**Shannon Belgrade**  
Lead Animal Care Technician

# Welcome to ACUP



**Dr. Claire Gossett**  
Veterinary Resident

# Welcome to ACUP

## Associate Animal Care Technicians



Shea Flannery



Jordan Jenkins



Ashley Whitacre



Jazmine Hayden



Spencer Wingate

## Associate Cage Wash Technician



Brian Rawlings

# Animal Procurement Reminder

Before initiating any animal-related purchase,  
involve DAC Procurement first.

- Engage DAC Procurement for all animal and animal-related purchases, including specialized research models.
- Pricing, quotes, purchasing, contracting, shipping, and acquisition arrangements should be coordinated through DAC Procurement.
- Early partnership with DAC Procurement helps ensure:
  - Compliance with institutional requirements
  - Appropriate procurement documentation
  - Efficient order processing and delivery planning
  - Reduced risk of delays or unexpected issues
- Direct communication with vendors should be limited to scientific discussions related to research needs and model suitability.





## Updates

- Next MyColony User Group meeting: Friday, September 4th
  - Interested in joining? Contact Jordan Whitt at [jordan.whitt@vumc.org](mailto:jordan.whitt@vumc.org)
- Look for the next MyColony Quarterly Newsletter coming in early Fall

## Reminder – MyColony includes Colony and AMI!

Vanderbilt researchers have full access to both (Cost included in *per Diem*)



Contact Alex Vatral for all your  
Transnetyx needs  
**Email:** [avatral@transnetyx.com](mailto:avatral@transnetyx.com)



# IACUC/OAWA Updates

# AAALAC International Continued Full Accreditation

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AAALAC International is pleased to convey that Vanderbilt University Medical Center and Vanderbilt University is accredited. Our records show that Vanderbilt University Medical Center and Vanderbilt University initially achieved AAALAC International accreditation on December 18, 1967.

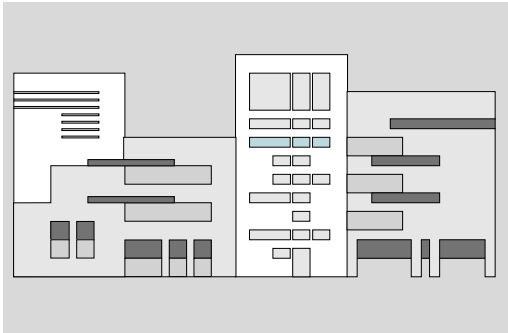
Noteworthy aspects of the program:

- Strong institutional support
- State-of-the-art specialized core program
- Collaborative culture of care across the program
- Comprehensive post-approval monitoring program
- Impressive Veterinary care program
- Robust Occupational Health program
- Clean and well-organized housing and support areas
- Detailed IACUC records
- Excellent residency training program

# Semi Annual Inspection Results

## Results from July: Top Issues of Non-Compliance

Physical Plant



Cleaning and Sanitization  
of Lab Space



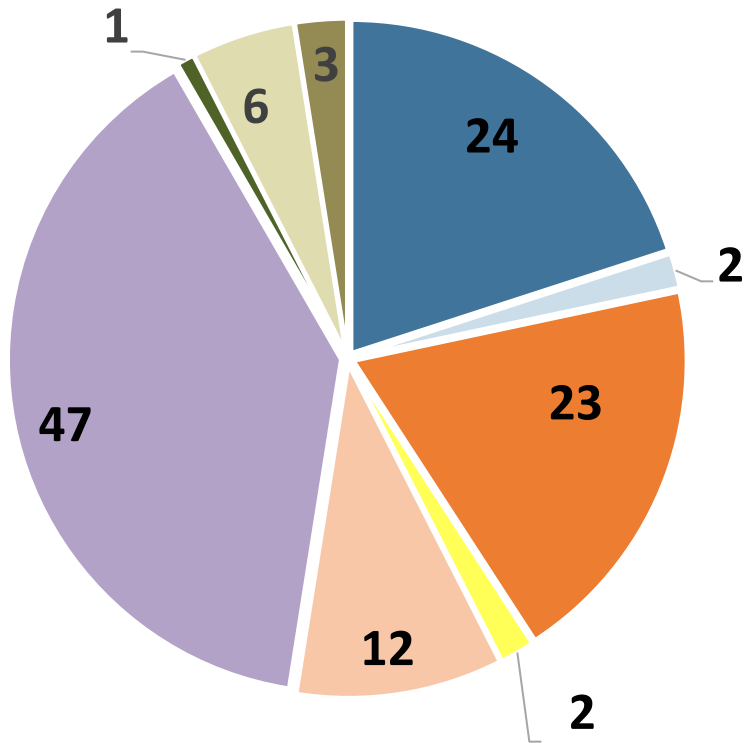
Expired Items



# Semi Annual Inspection Results

## Vanderbilt Health/Vanderbilt University

July 2026 Semi Annual Inspection

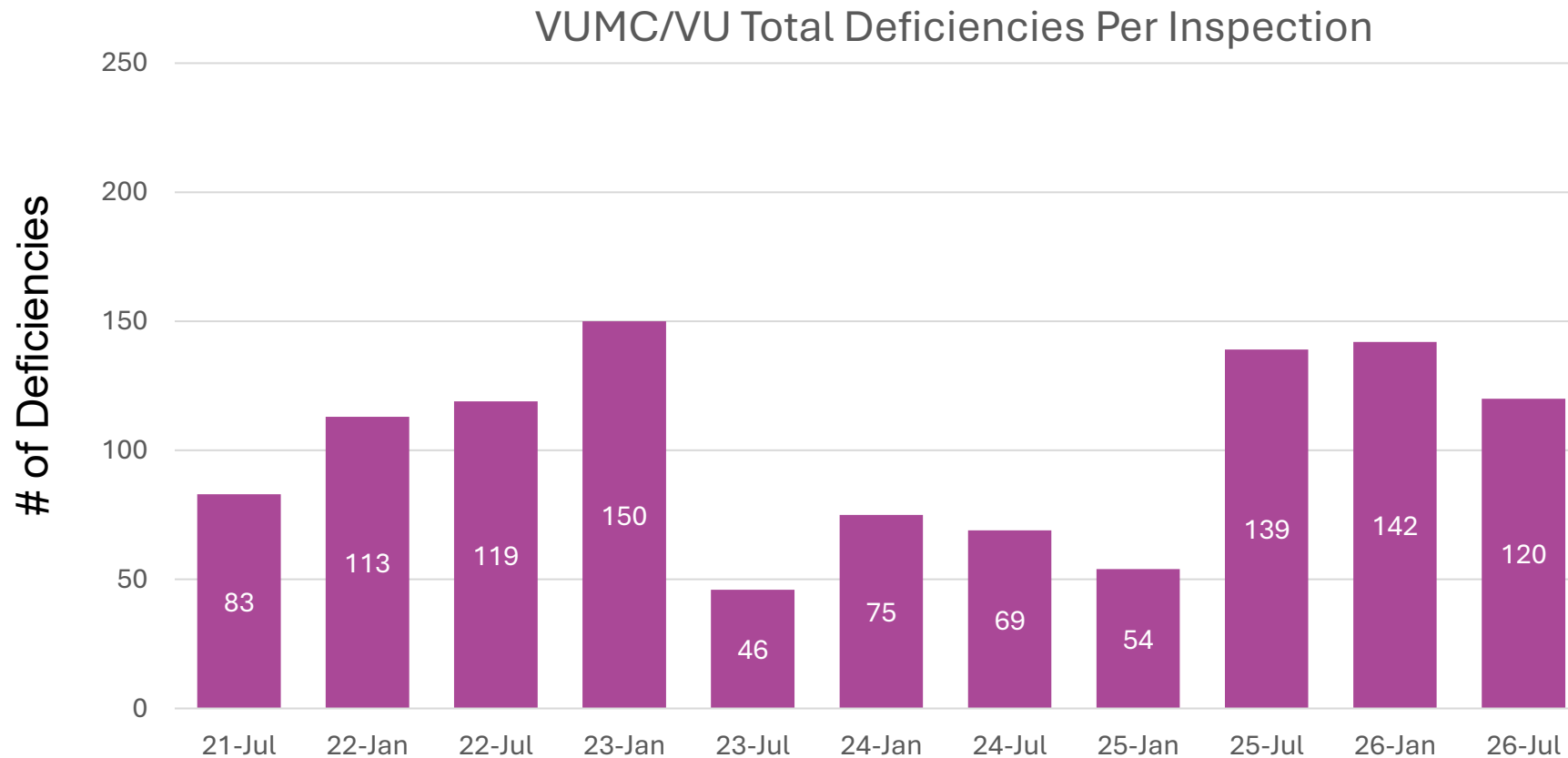


| Deficiency Category                                                                                                              | Minor      | Significant | Total      |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|-------------|------------|
|  Cleaning and Sanitation                      | 24         |             | 24         |
|  Controlled Substance Storage and Control     | 2          |             | 2          |
|  Expired Items                                | 23         |             | 23         |
|  Food/Water Concerns                          | 2          |             | 2          |
|  Labeling/Identification                      | 12         |             | 12         |
|  Physical Plant                               | 47         |             | 47         |
|  Unapproved Procedures                        | 1          |             | 1          |
|  Safety Concerns                            | 6          |             | 6          |
|  Signage                                    | 0          |             | 0          |
|  Veterinary Care and Animal Health Concerns | 3          |             | 3          |
| <b>TOTALS</b>                                                                                                                    | <b>120</b> |             | <b>120</b> |

# Semi Annual Inspection Results

## Vanderbilt Health

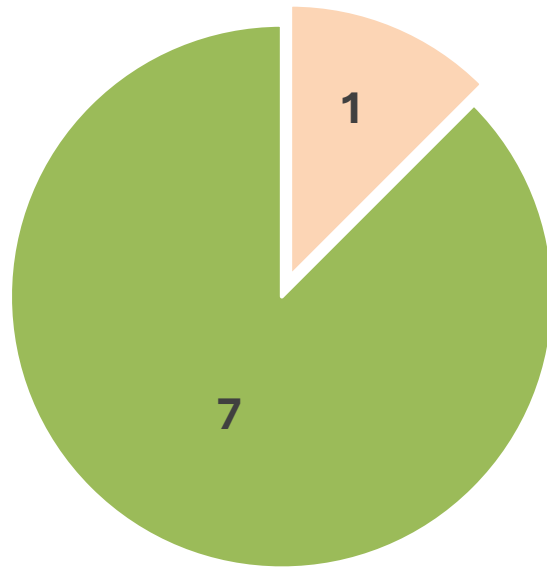
### July 2026 Semi Annual Inspection



*Historic High = 572 deficiencies July 2007*

# Semi Annual Inspection Results

## Veterans Administration - TVHS July 2026 Semi Annual Inspection

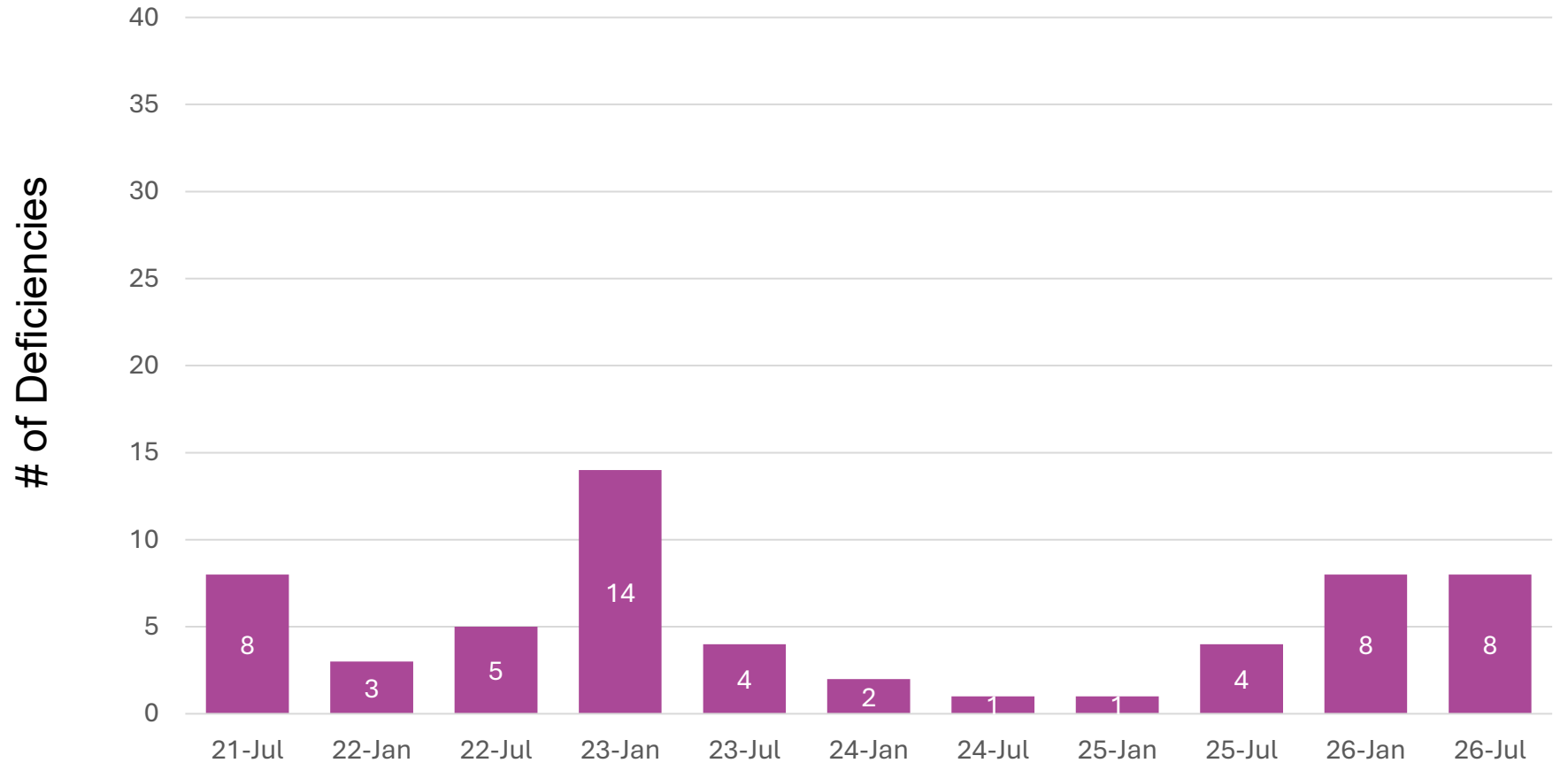


| Deficiency Category                                                                                                              | Minor | Significant | Total |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|-------------|-------|
|  Cleaning and Sanitation                      |       |             |       |
|  Controlled Substance Storage and Control     |       |             |       |
|  Expired Items                                |       |             |       |
|  Food/Water Concerns                          |       |             |       |
|  Labeling/Identification                      | 1     |             | 1     |
|  Physical Plant                               | 7     |             | 7     |
|  Unapproved Procedures                       |       |             |       |
|  Safety Concerns                            |       |             |       |
|  Unapproved Procedures                      |       |             |       |
|  Veterinary Care and Animal Health Concerns |       |             |       |
| TOTALS                                                                                                                           | 8     |             | 8     |

# Semi Annual Inspection Results

## Veterans Administration - TVHS July 2025 Semi Annual Inspection

VA Total Deficiencies per Inspection



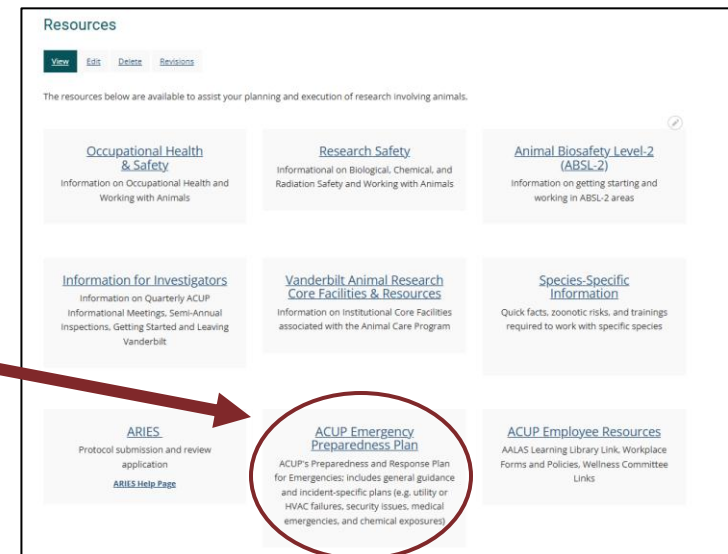
*Historic High = 72 deficiencies July*

# ACUP Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan

**February 1, 2026 – July 31, 2026**

There were no new activations of the ACUP Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan during this reporting period.

Reminder: A link to the ACUP Emergency Plan is available in all facilities and on the ACUP Website under Resources.



# Semi Annual Inspection Results

## IACUC Compliance Reports

2/1/2026 – 7/31/2026

| Source                 | Reports to OAWA | Animal Welfare Investigations | Reported to OLAW | Reported to VA |
|------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Self-Report            |                 |                               |                  |                |
| For Cause              | 1               |                               |                  |                |
| PAM Activities         |                 |                               |                  |                |
| Semi-annual Inspection | 1               |                               |                  |                |
| Whistleblower Report   | 2               | 1                             |                  |                |
| Total                  | 4               | 1                             |                  |                |



## **Most Recent Visit**

### **Aug. 12, 2026**

Focused Inspection: Animal Welfare

Inspection conducted by Dr. Richard Burdeaux (new VMO for VH/VU)  
and Dr. Harvey Kent

No Issues of Non-Compliance

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USDA Inspections are unannounced and can happen at any time.



## Policy Reminder – Recording in Facilities

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- Recording of any kind is forbidden in animal facilities unless approved in your protocol
- Posting of animals or animal facilities on Social Media is strictly prohibited without prior approval
- Please see the IACUC policy IACUC.POL.AWEL.17



# OAWA Updates: Just in Times (JITs)

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- NIH has updated the process around the JIT process for grants that involve animal work
- Several divisions (NIAID, NINDS) are enforcing strict JIT deadlines for protocol approval (as short as 48 hrs), especially around end of federal fiscal year
- Conundrum: NIH is also requiring a thorough IACUC review
- PI should request **restricted approval** (release of all funds except those associated with animal work)
- OAWA can provide “Pending Letters”
- If denied, please contact OSP/SPA and OAWA for assistance

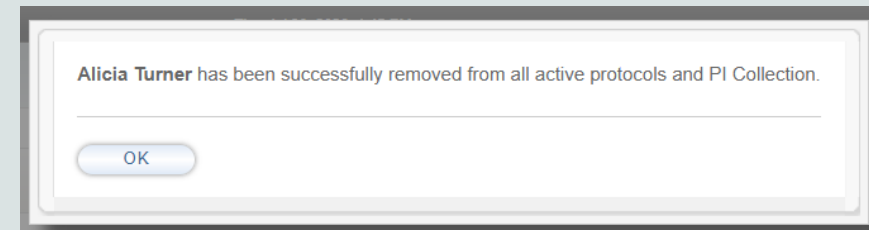
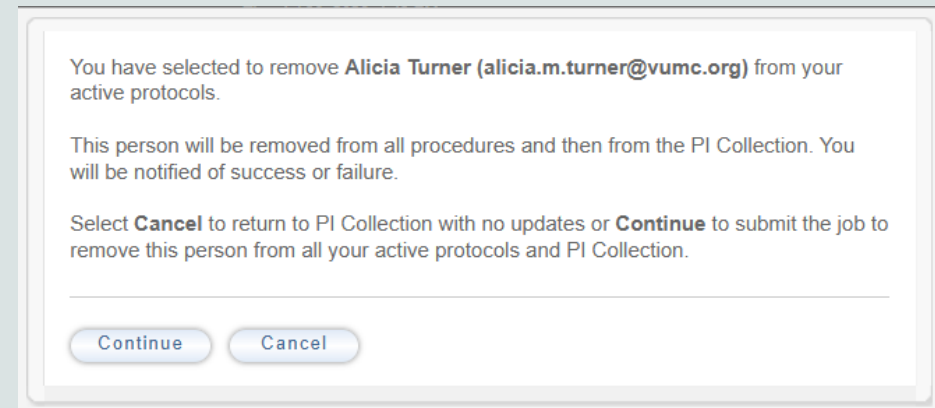
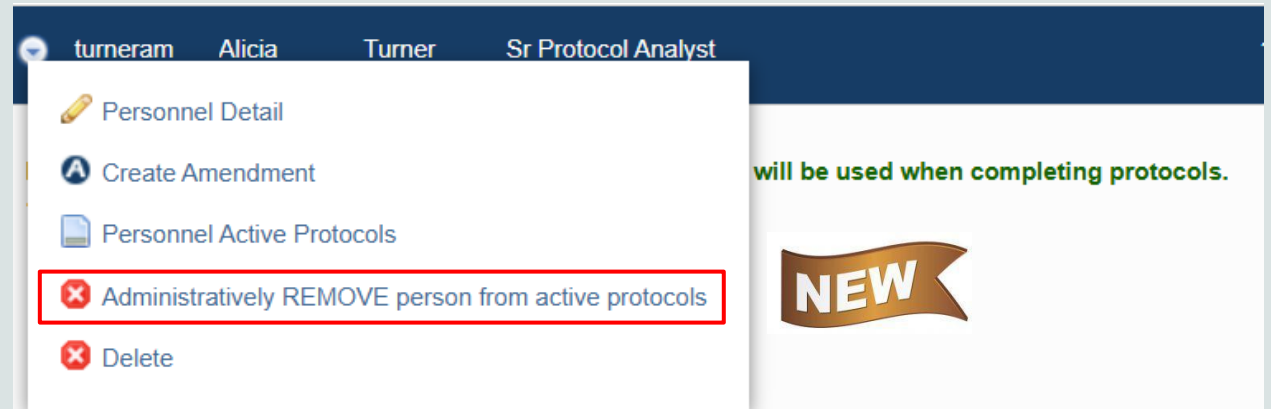
# Remove Personnel Administratively

- ❖ Removing personnel without an amendment.
- ❖ Errors you may encounter.



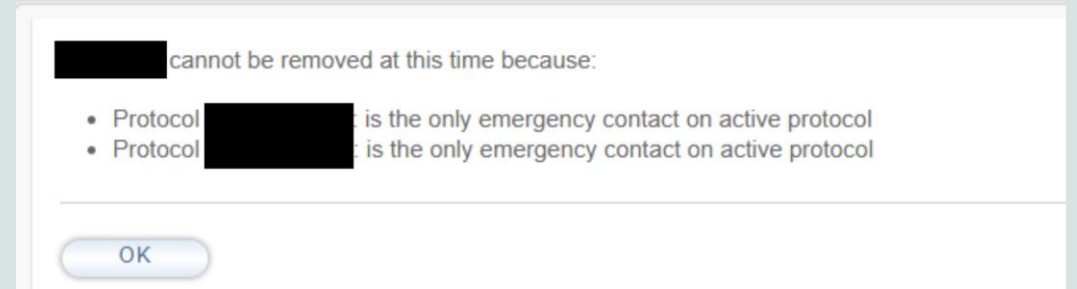
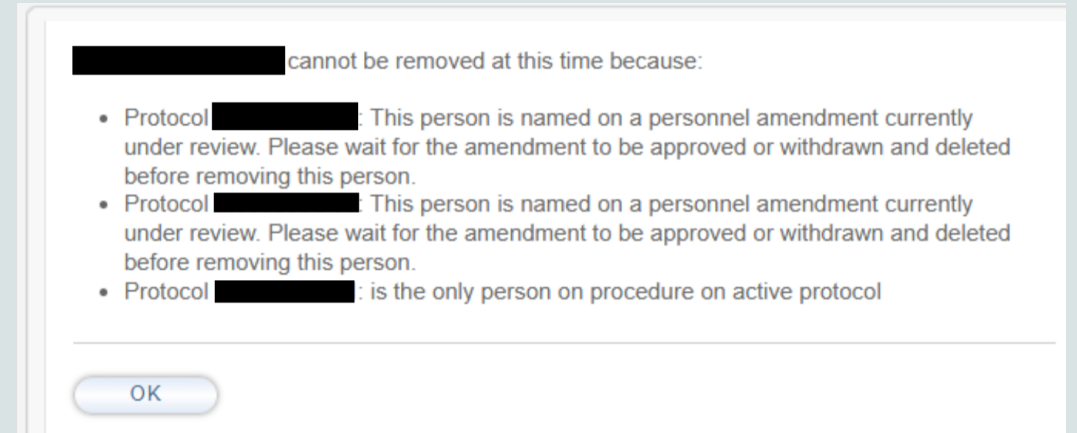
# In the PI collection

- ❖ PI or lab managers can click the down arrow. 
- ❖ Then select "Administratively REMOVE person from active protocols."
- ❖ You will get this prompt after confirming the information; click Continue.
- ❖ You will then get a pop-up that they have been successfully removed from all protocols.



# Potential errors

- ❖ If the individual is the only one listed on a procedure for an active protocol.
- ❖ If there is a personnel-only amendment already in progress for the person.
- ❖ If the person is the only emergency contact.





# Thank you

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For questions or assistance, please contact a  
protocol analyst:

Caroline Douglas:

[caroline.douglas@vumc.org](mailto:caroline.douglas@vumc.org)

Micala Parker:

[micala.maddox@vumc.org](mailto:micala.maddox@vumc.org)

Alicia Turner:

[Alicia.m.turner@vumc.org](mailto:Alicia.m.turner@vumc.org)



# Vaporizer Recertification

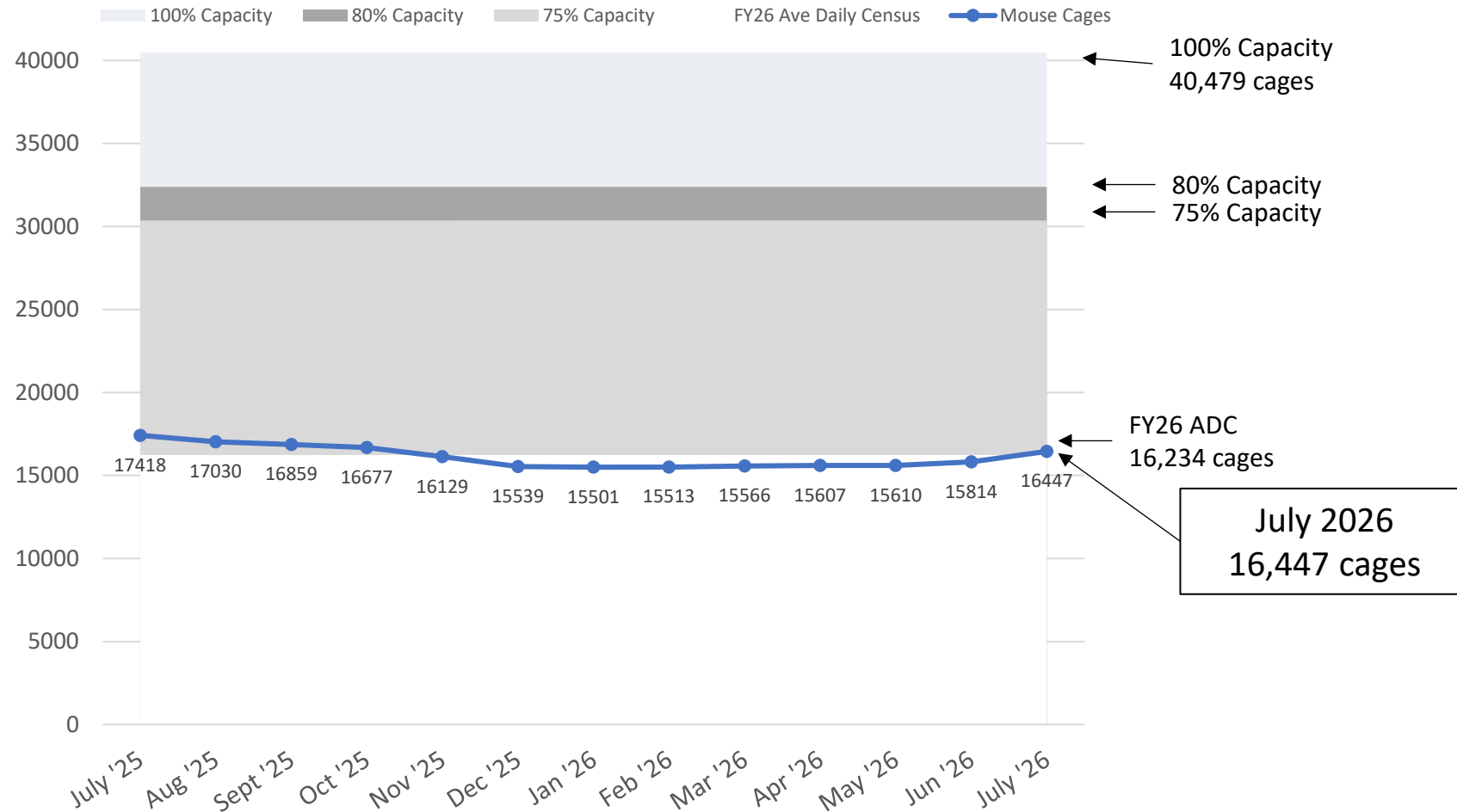
- Sept. 14-16
- Please contact Daphne Molnar ([daphne.molnar@vumc.org](mailto:daphne.molnar@vumc.org)) to get on schedule or if you have questions



# **Division of Animal Care Updates**

# Census Update

## Average Daily Census by Month - Mouse Cages

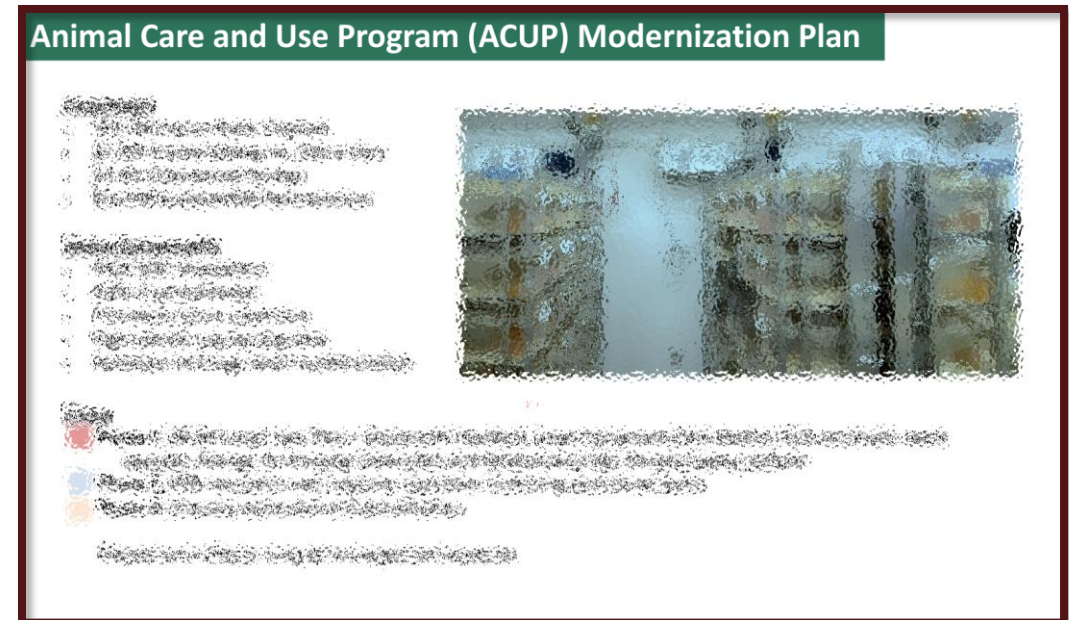


# DAC Master Plan Update

Intended to guide the alignment of future-state capabilities, recommendations, executable priorities, capital investments and operational staffing needs within the next 5-10 years

**Proposal is currently being reviewed by Senior Leadership and presented to the VUMC Board of Directors.**

Tentatively planning, with approval, to present to the research community early 2027.



# Internal Transfers

Submit a DAC Transfer Request for all transfers, including:

- protocol changes
- room moves
- center number changes.

Complete the appropriate transfer form (Non-USDA or USDA-Regulated Species).

Coordinate with the Facility Manager if the research team will perform the animal relocation for experiential reasons.

## Animal Care and Use Program

[About Us](#) ▾

[ACUP IT Applications](#) ▾

[Administrative Office](#) ▾

[Policies & Procedures](#)

[Forms & Tools](#) ▾

[Contact Us](#)

### Additional Forms & Information

#### BILLING

- [Request to Update TOPAZ Payment Source Form](#)
- Visit [Billing & Payment Sources \(VUMC Worktag, VU Poet #, and VU 99999#\)](#) for additional information.

#### ANIMAL CENSUS ADJUSTMENTS

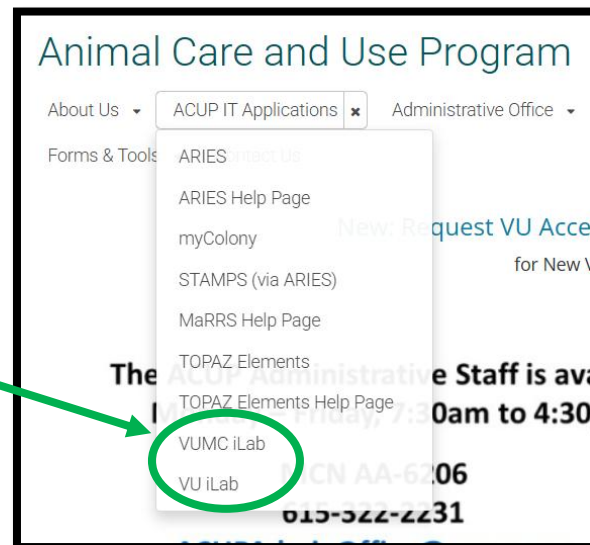
- [Protocol Animal Usage Adjustment Form](#) - This form is used to adjust the number of animals on a protocol. NOTE: To adjust the requested number of animals on a protocol, the protocol must be amended.

#### ANIMAL TRANSFERS AND SHIPPING:

- [Non-USDA Animal Transfer Request Form](#) - Mouse, Rat, Aquatic Species
- [USDA-Regulated Species Transfer Request Form](#) - All USDA-regulated species
- [Outgoing Animal Shipment Form](#)
- Visit [Animal Orders & Transfers](#) for additional information

# Animal Transfer Station and Biosafety Cabinet Usage

- Use only the animal transfer station in your assigned housing room or the biosafety cabinet in your assigned procedure room.
- Reservations may be completed in iLab.



# Deprivation Cap Usage



Water deprivation caps and orange card identifiers **must** be removed after each use

- Remove all water deprivation caps and orange card identifiers immediately after each use.
- Place used water deprivation caps in the designated red bin for sanitation.
- Place the orange identifier card in the file holder within the room.
- Do not remove water deprivation caps from the facility.

*Please note: DAC staff will remove any unused water deprivation caps found on animal racks.*

# Washer & Autoclave Equipment Update

## Current State

- All washers and autoclaves have returned to a functional status
- We have partnered with a new service provider and have aligned on a strategy of preventive maintenance and parts on hand.

## How can you help?

- Utilize the Husbandry Supplies request form found on the ACUP website.



# Husbandry Supply Request

- Husbandry Supplies request form found on the ACUP website.
- Submit requests with a minimum of three (3) business days' notice.
- Utilize all requested equipment within 7 days of the requested delivery date.

## Animal Care and Use Program

About Us ▾ ACUP IT Applications ▾ Administrative Office ▾ Policies & Procedures  
**Forms & Tools ▾** Contact Us

### HUSBANDRY & VETERINARY SUPPLIES & INFORMATION

- [Husbandry Supplies Request Form](#)
- [Cage Card Request Form](#)
- Visit [Food & Fluid Regulation](#) for information of Do Not Feed/Do Not
- Visit [Carbon Dioxide Euthanasia of Rodents - PI Information Sheet](#)
- Visit [Drug & Supplies Orders](#) for more information on controlled dr

### Item Requested

- ☐ Sterile Cages - No Food
- ☐ Sterile Cages - With Food
- ☐ Standard Cages - No Food
- ☐ Standard Cages - With Food
- ☐ Bedding-Free Cages
- ☐ Sterile Water Bottles
- ☐ Red-tinted Water Bottles
- ☐ Huts
- ☐ Other

# REMINDER

Contact DAC Veterinarians if you experience any unanticipated adverse consequences resulting in animal welfare concerns or death.

**\*\*This is especially important when working with USDA species. \*\***



Erin Yu,  
DVM, DACLAM  
Associate Professor



Nick Tataryn  
DVM, DACLAM  
Assistant Professor



Courtney Hunter  
DVM, PhD, DACLAM  
Assistant Professor



Michael McKinney  
DVM, DACLAM  
Assistant Professor



Kate Shuster  
DVM, DACLAM  
Associate Professor



Katy Black  
DVM  
Veterinary Resident



Claire Gossett  
DVM  
Veterinary Resident

# REMINDER

Contact DAC Veterinarians with any questions concerning animal models

\*\*\*We love to collaborate!\*\*\*



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# Save the Date



The next ACUP Quarterly  
Informational Meeting  
December 3, 2026

