ALISON E. LAKIN APPOINTED ASSISTANT VICE CHANCELLOR FOR REGULATORY COMPLIANCE AT UCDENVER | ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS

Alison Lakin, RN, LL.B, LL.M, PhD has been appointed Assistant Vice Chancellor of Regulatory Compliance for Research Affairs at the University of Colorado Denver | Anschutz Medical Campus. Her appointment will begin October 1, 2011. Alison has been serving in the role of Interim Director of Regulatory Compliance for Research Affairs since the departure of Angela Wishon in May 2011. Alison is best known and extremely well-regarded in her role as Director of the Colorado Multiple Institutional Review Board (COMIRB) here at UC Denver | Anschutz Medical Campus.

Alison has unique training for her new appointment. She has an RN degree from Oxford School of Nursing in England. She then obtained a law degree (LL.B) from Sheffield University in England. This was followed with a Masters in International Law (LL.M) from Trinity Hall, Cambridge University. Finally, she obtained a Doctorate of Law (PhD) from King's College, University of London in 2001. In her early career as an RN, she worked as a Surgical Staff Nurse, an Oncology Staff Nurse, a Chemotherapy Staff Nurse, a Palliative Care Staff Nurse, and in Community Medicine. She became an Instructor at UC Denver | Anschutz Medical Campus in the Department of Preventive Medicine and Biometrics in 2002. In addition, she was a Research Subject Advocate for the General Clinical Research Center. In 2005, she accepted the position of Interim Director of COMIRB before becoming its permanent Director.

We are extremely lucky to have someone of Alison's caliber here at UC Denver | Anschutz Medical Campus. She has worked tirelessly for the university in positions involving difficult situations - clinical, legal, protection of patients' rights and adherence to regulatory compliance issues. She is a wonderful individual with a great sense of humor. Alison is thorough in her work and usually quite soft spoken, but she is tough and no push over concerning regulatory compliance issues. I have the utmost respect and confidence in her abilities to perform as Assistant Vice Chancellor of Regulatory Compliance for Research Affairs. Please help in welcoming Alison to her new position.

P.S. I will be appointing a new Director of COMIRB soon.

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COMIRB NEW FORMS ALERT - IMPORTANT

With the upcoming AAHRPP re-accreditation process, COMIRB has revised nearly all of the forms used for protocol submissions (see list below). New form versions help ensure that COMIRB reviewers have all of the information now required to review submissions. This is especially important for any research that involves the VA Medical Center in any way. The new forms are also designed to better guide investigators through the relevant regulations. Using the most up-to-date versions of our forms will help to decrease your review time!

When creating a new protocol submission, many investigators recycle an old submission that they have saved on their hard drives. COMIRB strongly discourages this practice as it will result in submission of outdated materials and will delay your review and approval. COMIRB staff may return protocols submitted on outdated forms. Please do not recycle old submissions; obtain the new forms from our website each time you submit a protocol!

To access all of our new forms, please go to the COMIRB website and click the Forms tab at the top. You may access all of our current forms by clicking the following link:
http://www.ucdenver.edu/academics/research/AboutUs/comirb/forms/Pages/default.aspx (please cut and paste the url into your browser address window)

Please note that the new form versions on our website are paper submission forms. If you are submitting a paper submission (or uploading paper forms into InfoEd to submit), use the above link to access the most recent versions. If you are submitting through InfoEd, using the Electronic Forms built into Info-Ed (currently available for Expedited/Exempt and Panel D), you will be accessing the most recent versions of the relevant E-forms directly through InfoEd. If you have any questions about our new forms, please call the Help Desk at (303) 724-1055.

New Form Versions are Available for:
Application for Protocol Review (Full Board and Expedited);
Application for Exempt/Non-human Subject Research Determination;
All Attachments

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http://www.ucdenver.edu/academics/research/AboutUs/comirb/forms/Pages/default.aspx (please cut and paste the url into your browser address window)
RESEARCH CORNER

Danielle M. Varda is an Assistant Professor at the School of Public Affairs, University of Colorado Denver with a secondary appointment in the Colorado School of Public Health, Department of Health Systems, Management, and Policy. She specializes in collaborative management and policy networks, focusing specifically in public health systems research. Her research focus is on evaluating the network structure of collaborations between the public, private, and nonprofit sectors and the subsequent network affects of these recorded interactions. She has developed models and methods of network measurement, for example she has developed a research model for measuring social capital by evaluating the network structure of local community networks, including developing questionnaires and analysis of diverse network data. In addition, with funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, she has recently developed a software tool (PARTNER, www.partnertool.net) that allows public health departments to measure and monitor their collaborative activity over time. Dr. Varda’s PARTNER tool was featured in her first place award for the 2008 Maxwell School Collaborative Governance Initiative competition, Teaching Simulation. In addition, she was recently awarded the “Public Health Systems and Services Article of the Year” award by Academy Health. Her research portfolio includes projects in the areas of maternal/child health, public health preparedness, nonprofit community networks, and evaluation of collaboration. She is an experienced interviewer, facilitator, and has extensive experience developing and administering surveys. Her research has been funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the National Institute of Justice, the Department of Health and Human Services, Veterans Administration, University of Kentucky School of Public Health, and the Department of Defense. Dr. Varda joined SPA from the RAND Corporation, where she worked as an Associate Policy Scientist from 2005-2008.

OFFICE OF LABORATORY ANIMAL RESOURCES (OLAR)

In early February 2011, we began a mandatory quarantine for all Nude mice [nu/nu, Foxn1] from all vendors out of concern for Coryneform Hyperkeratosis (i.e. “Scaly Skin” or bacterial dermatitis). This practice, in addition to vigilant monitoring at time of arrival has prevented the introduction of approximately 200 nude mice with PCR or culture confirmed Corynebacterium infections. For animals that were not clinical with scaly skin at the time of arrival we also initiated treatment with Baytril (antibiotic) during the 2 week quarantine. With no data on this issue, this addition of antibiotic therapy was an attempt to diminish or eliminate undetected Corynebacterium infection during quarantine. Recently, literature was published that demonstrates that antibiotic treatment will only mask the presence of Corynebacterium bovis infections, with detectable skin contamination returning after several weeks. In light of this data, we have ended the practice of antibiotic administration during the Nude Mouse Quarantine period (as of September 6th).

With the above change, we have instituted PCR testing of all arriving nude mice by sampling multiple representative animals from each arriving shipping crate. Currently, these samples are being sent to an external diagnostic laboratory with a 10-14 day turnaround time. With the assistance of the UC-Denver | Anschutz Medical Campus PCR Core, a qPCR assay has been developed that will provide a more rapid and less expensive alternative for testing. Following further parallel testing between labs, utilization of the PCR core may diminish the Nude Mouse Quarantine period from 2 weeks to 1 week. Until that time, the quarantine period will remain 2 weeks for vigilant monitoring of mice for signs of infection and allow time for the return of diagnostic results.

In the face of these efforts, many of you are aware that outbreaks of scaly skin in nude mice still occur in rooms within the facilities. The literature demonstrates that this is due to lingering environmental contamination and introduction of fomites via experimental equipment. With a good handle on the quality control of arriving mice, we are starting the process of addressing endemic infections within the facilities. This process will require time, space, coordination, and cooperation by all (CCM facility staff, summer students, seasoned laboratory staff, all the way to principle investigators) and is already under way.

As promised, we are continuing to address this problem. We appreciate everyone’s patience as we move forward. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact Chris Manuel, DVM, PhD, DACLAM (chris.manuel@ucdenver.edu).

OFFICE OF GRANTS AND CONTRACTS (OGC)

Electronic Research Administration

The OGC Research Administration Start to Finish Course for Administrators has been updated and will be made available through the OGC website this fall. For those who are new to UC Denver and those who need to brush up on sponsored project management, we encourage you to take the course. When the course is loaded on our website, we’ll send a reminder notice to the campus.