Merry Christmas — Enjoy the Festive Holidays

This special edition of Animal Welfare Matters provides updates on important information for the festive period and the start of the New Year. In this issue, we also say goodbye to the outgoing Chair of the Animal Ethics Committee and welcome to the new Chair with his first meeting in February 2012.

Christmas Shutdown

The Animal Ethics Office will be closed for the standard university closure period.

AWO available over festive period

The Animal Welfare Officer (AWO), Julie Bellamy, will be available throughout the Christmas/New Year closure period for any animal welfare concerns or advice (Tel 0428 021 529).

For any other general enquiries please email vets-research@uwa.edu.au.

Annual Reporting of Animal Statistics for 2011

A quick reminder — annual reports are due by 1st February 2012

2011 Annual Report forms are ready for download from www.research.uwa.edu.au/staff/animals/policies/annual-reporting

It is the responsibility of the Chief Investigator to complete for each approved AEC project: UWA Annual Report form (Part A) and State Government Annual Return (Part B) in January of each year.

Project where no animals have been used during the calendar year must be submitted as a ‘Nil’ Return. Animal Ethics Office staff are available to assist you with any queries you may have.

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Jean Needle  6488 3033
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From the AEO - Changes to the AEC in 2012

Thank you to Emeritus Professor Craig Atkins for chairing the Animal Ethics Committee, with an exceptionally steady hand on the tiller. During his watch, there have been significant refinements to the AEC review process. This has resulted in faster turn-around times for processing applications to approval.

Craig has a very hands-on approach, making himself available to directly communicate with researchers, the DVCR and the Animal Ethics Office. He is also regularly liaising with the Animal Welfare Officer and the Animal Welfare and Veterinary Advisors.

And from those of us lucky enough to travel with you in your vehicles thanks for the rides in your beautiful vintage sports cars!

We welcome the incoming Chair, Winthrop Professor D’Arcy Holman from the School of Population Health. D’Arcy has accepted a three year appointment that will commence on the 1st January, 2012. See D’Arcy’s profile on page 3-4.

Last chance to submit comments on the draft Australian code of practice for the care and use of animal used in scientific purposes!

ANZCCART HAS BEEN GRANTED EXTENSION FOR COMMENTS ON DRAFT CODE until 16th December

Thank you to all those who made submissions to the NHMRC with respect to the new code of practice. Although the deadline was 2pm (for us West Australians!) on Friday 2nd December, ANZCCART has been granted an extension on the closing date and they now have up until 4.00pm (in Canberra) on Friday 16th December before they have to submit the final version of their comments.

So, if you would still like to have a say, please contact Geoff Dandie (geoff.dandie@adelaide.edu.au) and be sure to get your ideas to him as soon as possible, but preferably no later than the evening of Thursday 15th Dec - as this will allow all the comments to be collated.

PAWES Courses 2012


Reminder: The Ethics and Regulations on-line module must be passed prior to attending the lecture and workshop modules. It can be accessed at http://www.research.uwa.edu.au/staff/animals/pawes
Saying goodbye to the current AEC Chair — Emeritus Professor Craig Atkins

Emeritus Professor Craig Atkins came to chair of the AEC at a time when processes and procedures of the committee were being questioned and relationships among the various stakeholders were strained. He provided an unbiased view as he was not involved in research that used animals. For more than 37 years, his research at UWA has been in the areas of plant biochemistry and molecular biology. He served as Head of the Department of Botany for over a decade, as Deputy Dean to Professor Alastair Robertson in the FNAS (Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences) and as Director of the CMCA (Centre for Microscopy, Characterisation and Analysis). He has been a member of the Radiation Safety Committee for 30 years and chaired it for 20 years, Chair of the Institutional Biosafety Committee overseeing the transition from GMAC to OGTR, as well as Deputy Chair of the Post Graduate Board for many years, and continues as a member for some 20 years.

Craig says “The greatest challenge I found initially in chairing the AEC was in understanding the incredibly diverse views of the members of the committee. Members are drawn from the professional veterinary community, the researchers of the university, the animal welfare field and the general public. Because all decisions of the committee are made by consensus of the members, debate is both lively and complex. However, I am indebted to the AEC membership for training me and for their co-operation, sometimes under difficult circumstances. Meetings are invariably long and decisions sometimes involve lengthy argument. Despite these demands, I have enjoyed the challenge of being the AEC Chair and I have got to know some wonderful members whose judgement I have come to value highly and respect.

Of course the administrative and procedural help from the Animal Welfare and Veterinary Advisors and from the Animal Welfare Officer, as well as the members of the Animal Ethics Office are critical to the proper and smooth running of this sensitive and complex area of research. Without their advice and continual assistance my task would not have been possible. Thank you! Finally I would like to thank the research and teaching community of UWA for entrusting me with the details and nuances of their projects using animals. It has been a privilege to assist you to ensure that your research and teaching reaches the high ethical standards expected of a highly successful university.”

Introducing the new AEC Chair — Winthrop Professor D’Arcy Holman

UWA’s Chair in Public Health, Winthrop Professor D’Arcy Holman, has been appointed to chair the University’s Animal Ethics Committee. This will commence after Emeritus Professor Craig Atkins retires from the demanding role at the end of 2011.

Professor Holman is an epidemiologist, public health physician and law graduate, whose career has spanned leadership positions across the academic, government, community and private sectors.

Prior to his academic career, he was an Assistant Health Commissioner in the WA Government’s Senior Executive Service and has served at the highest levels on both the policy and research arms of the NHMRC. He is a past president of the Cancer Council of WA and is presently independent chair of the state’s Road Safety Council. He is also a company director of Australia’s fourth largest private
health insurer (the not-for-profit fund, HBF Health Ltd) and is company chairman of its subsidiary fund, GMF-Healthguard.

Professor Holman is also a Permanent Guest Professor at the School of Medicine at Zhejiang University in the People’s Republic of China, and an Honorary Professor at the College of Medicine at Swansea University.

He recently graduated in law with first class honours from Murdoch University, where he received the Francis Burt Chambers Law Medal for the most outstanding academic performance in law. His research interests focus on public health and the evaluation of health care, with published works numbering well over 400 and competitive grant earnings exceeding Au$45 million, although his research has never involved the use of animals.

Professor Holman has received the Centenary Medal of Australia for his services to the Australian health system. His commitment to community and consumer participation in research has been acknowledged by the Excellent Service to Consumers Award of the WA Health Consumers Council. He is also the recipient of Australia’s highest professional honour for lifetime achievement in his field, the Sydney Sax Public Health Medal.

The Animal Ethics Office is looking forward to working with Professor Holman and members of the 2012 Animal Ethics Committee to further strengthen and facilitate the operation of the UWA’s ethical standards framework for the use of animals in research.

### AEC meeting and submission deadlines for 2012

In 2012, AEC meetings will occur on a Thursday with the submission closing date moving to the corresponding Monday, approximately 2 weeks prior to the relevant AEC meeting date.

These dates are also available at [www.research.uwa.edu.au/staff/animals/ethics-committee](http://www.research.uwa.edu.au/staff/animals/ethics-committee)

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