

NIH National Institutes of Health  
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare

# OLAW Update

IACUC 101, April 2024

https://oia.nih.gov/research-and-education/olaw/2024/12/olaw-101-presentation

This slide features a dark blue background with a white horizontal band. On the left, the NIH logo and 'Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare' are displayed. The title 'OLAW Update' is in large blue font. Below it, the text 'IACUC 101, April 2024' is shown. On the right, a row of five mice in various colors (brown, black, white) is depicted. A small URL is at the bottom.

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## Learning Objectives

- Relate NIH's and OLAW's mission
- Discuss NIH updates
- Identify upcoming education opportunities
- Explain where to find resources

Image: iStock. Free for commercial use, no attribution required. <https://iStockby.com/photos/animal-mouse-experiment-laboratory-1554743/>

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This slide has a dark blue background. On the left, a close-up photo of a white mouse with red eyes being held in a person's hand. On the right, the title 'Learning Objectives' is in white, followed by a bulleted list of four objectives. A small NIH logo is at the bottom right.

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## Who We Are

NIH National Institutes of Health  
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare

Aerial view of the W. M. Keck Clinical Research Center Building 10, NIH Campus, Bethesda, MD. Credit: National Institutes of Health.

This slide features a photograph of a large, multi-story brick research building under a blue sky with wispy clouds. The title 'Who We Are' is in white text in the upper left. The NIH logo and name are in the bottom left, and a small caption about the building is in the bottom right.

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## NIH Mission

To seek fundamental knowledge about the nature and behavior of living systems and the application of that knowledge to enhance health, lengthen life, and reduce illness and disability.

Image: <https://www.nih.gov/photos/nihlife/nihlife-1>

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This slide has a dark blue background. On the left, a collage of images: a red and white virus-like particle, a blue and white virus-like particle, a person in a lab coat looking at a microplate, and a pink 3D molecular model. On the right, the title 'NIH Mission' is in white, followed by the mission statement in white text. A small NIH logo is at the bottom right.

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### How does NIH support the highest quality research? By promoting:


**Sound science**

- Appropriate research strategies
- Data integrity
- Translatability
- Reproducibility

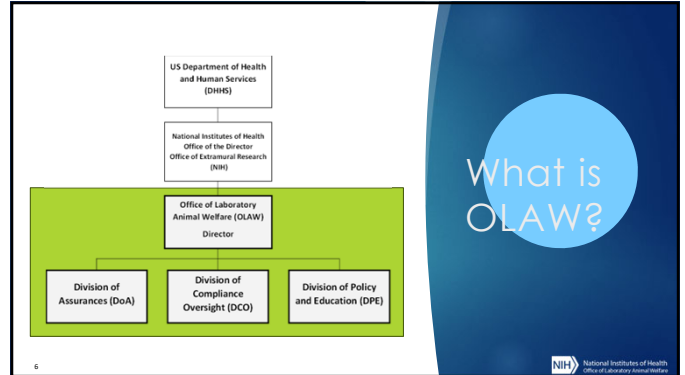
**Responsible and humane animal care and use**

Where appropriate:

- Animal reduction, refinement, replacement
- Suitable animal models, species, ages, sexes, #s
- Data sharing




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### OLAW Mission



The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) provides guidance and interpretation of the Public Health Service (PHS) Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (Policy), supports educational programs, and monitors compliance with the Policy by Assured institutions and PHS funding components to ensure the humane care and use of animals in PHS-supported research, testing, and training, thereby contributing to the quality of PHS-supported activities.



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### OLAW'S Responsibilities



**Oversee implementation of the PHS Policy**



**Provide interpretation and guidance**



**Negotiate Animal Welfare Assurances**



**Evaluate compliance**



**Educational activities**



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## NIH FY2023 By The Numbers

**58,951** extramural grant awards totaling **\$34.92 billion**

**Supported** research at **2,743** organizations

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https://www.nih.gov/about-nih/what-is-nih/fy2023-by-the-numbers-extramural-grant-fundamentals  
https://www.nih.gov/about-nih/what-is-nih/fy2023-by-the-numbers-extramural-grant-fundamentals

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## 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act Updates



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**21st Century Cures Act - Animal Care and Use in Research**  
Efforts to reduce administrative burden on investigators conducting animal activities while maintaining research integrity and the protection of animals.

**Obtaining an Assurance**  
Criteria and process for getting an Animal Welfare Assurance.

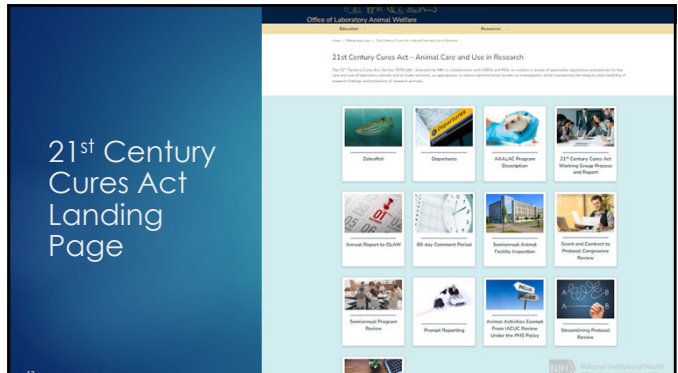
**Reporting Noncompliance**  
How to report situations of noncompliance and animal welfare concerns.

**ICARE Project & Workshops**  
A federal interagency project to empower IACUCs and institutions to increase compliance while conserving budget.

**Tutorial for the PHS Policy**  
Learn about the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals through this tutorial.

**OLAW News**  
Congress Review Webinar Posted  
Updates to 800 Grants Processes  
USDA AMIC Workshop Registration Open  
IACUC 101 Plus Virtual Workshop  
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## 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act Landing Page


**21st Century Cures Act - Animal Care and Use in Research**

- Exemptions
- Disruptions
- AAALAC Program Reevaluation
- 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act Working Group Process and Progress
- Annual Report to OIG Act
- 800 User Comment Period
- Government Animal Facility Transition
- Grant and Contract to Protect Compliance Review
- Government Program Review
- Primate Reporting
- Animal Activities: Example From IACUC Review Under the PHS Policy
- Streamlining Process Review

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## 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act

- Request for Information (RFI) on Flexibilities for Streamlining IACUC Review of Protocols and Significant Changes
  - Comment period closed; analyzing comments
- Request for Information (RFI) on an Update to the Current OLAW Guidance Disclaimer
  - Comment period closed; analyzing comments



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## New Guide Notices Incorporating USDA Clarifications for Semiannual Evaluations

- NOT-OD-24-076: Guidance on Flexibilities for Conducting Semiannual Inspections of Animal Facilities
  - Replaces NOT-OD-21-164 and NOT-OD-22-048
- NOT-OD-24-075: Guidance on Flexibilities for Conducting Semiannual Program Review
  - Replaces NOT-OD-23-129
- NO changes to OLAW's guidance on semiannual evaluation flexibilities for non-Animal Welfare Act (AWA)-regulated animals**

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-24-076.html>

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-24-075.html>




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## OLAW/USDA Collaborative Survey on Reducing Administrative Burden


- Survey for IACUC administrators
- Open June 2023-September 15, 2023
- Generally, OLAW Guidance and USDA updates reduced IACUC Administrator workload, with less direct workload-reducing effects for investigators.
- IACUC Administrators felt they were able to redirect time towards helping investigators with administrative tasks as a result of the OLAW flexibilities and USDA updates



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**Additional Updates**

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Request for Information (RFI) on Proposed Guidance to Assured Institutions on Cephalopod Care and Use

- Comment period closed; analyzing comments

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### Federal Demonstration Partnership (FDP): CUSP Project

- Online repository: participating institutions can share standard procedures used in animal care protocols, **including those for cephalopods**
- Contributed to the first ever Cephalopod Neuroscience Meeting April 18-21, 2024



<https://thelab.org/demonstrations-resources/cusp/>

- CUSP timeline
  - Beta-testing completed in 2023.
  - Pilot testing is anticipated mid-May.
  - Official rollout of CUSP expected to start by August/Sept
- A survey for new users prior to starting CUSP, and periodically to sample participants' experience

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### Upcoming Workshops and Conferences

- OLAW Workshops and Conferences page: <https://olaw.nih.gov/education/workshops-conferences.htm>

**National Animal Welfare Education Program**  
 This list includes national educational offerings from OLAW and organizations supported by or working with OLAW. For external events, please contact the host organization for any questions regarding educational opportunities. Note that external events may be subject to additional fees or membership requirements. Sign up for OLAW newsletters to be notified of upcoming topics.

**Upcoming Workshops and Conferences**

Date(s)	Location	Program	Host Organization
April 17, 2024	3:00 - 4:30 PM ET   Virtual	Are your Birds Covered Under the AIAWA's (USDA)?	IACUC Administrators Association
April 24-25, 2024	11:00 AM - 5:00 PM ET   Virtual	IACUC 101 Plus+	IACUC 101
May 1, 2024	3:00 - 4:30 PM ET   Virtual	A Communications Specialist for the ACUPP	IACUC Administrators Association
May 8 and 9, 2024	1:00 - 4:00 PM ET   Virtual	Meeting the Requirements of the Animal Welfare Act Workshop	Animal Welfare Information Center, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA-AWIC)
May 15, 2024	3:00 - 4:30 PM ET   Virtual	Navigating Animal Care and Use Program Tough Questions	IACUC Administrators Association
December 8-9, 2024	In-person   San Antonio, TX	SCAW Annual Winter Conference	Scientists Center for Animal Welfare (SCAW)

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### New ICARE Sessions

**OLAW Conversations**  
 Virtual and interactive  
 Discussion-based  
 Focus: collaborative problem-solving

**Most recent session:**  
 Practical Approaches to Performance Standards, December 19, 2023

**NEW SESSIONS COMING SOON!**



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**OLAW  
Online  
Seminars**

Most recent offering: March 21, 2024

Research Using Agricultural Animal Species

- Debbie Cunningham, DVM, Oklahoma State University
- Louis DiVincenti, DVM, MS, DACLAM, DACAW,USDA , APHIS, Animal Care
- Susan B. Harper, DVM, MS, DACLAM, DACVPM, RBP (ABSA), NIH (representing AAALAC International)

Recording will be posted

Next Webinar TBD: Summer 2024

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**Questions?**

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