

5 April 2012

## Update for AEC members from the Chair of NAEAC – April 2012

### NAEAC policies, guidelines and terms of reference

NAEAC has reviewed its policies, guidelines and terms of reference and these are now available on the MAF website at the link below should you wish to view them. Of particular note are the:

- *Guidelines on Application Templates used by AECs;*
- *Guidelines for AECs on Adequate Monitoring; and*
- *Terms of Reference for the AEC Service Awards.*

<http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/regs/animal-welfare/pubs/animals-used-in-research#guidelines>

### Visit by NAEAC members

NAEAC members are happy to visit AECs in their region. If you would like to host a NAEAC member at your AEC meeting, contact details are listed below:

NAME	CITY	E-MAIL
Dr Virginia Williams (Chairperson)	CHRISTCHURCH	
Dr Dave Morgan	LINCOLN	
Dr Karen Booth	WELLINGTON	9(2)(a)
Mr Ian Buchanan	WAIRARAPA	
Ms Allison Dodds	DUNEDIN	
Professor Martin Kennedy	CHRISTCHURCH	
Hon Robyn Kippenberger	AUCKLAND	
Dr Peter Larsen	WELLINGTON	
Dr Justine Stewart	AUCKLAND	



## Interesting papers

- **Pain in laboratory animals:** This paper (available free on line at [www.plosone.org](http://www.plosone.org)) although American in focus, contains an interesting discussion about the ethics of leaving pain untreated in laboratory animals: Carbone L. (2011) Pain in Laboratory Animals: the Ethical and Regulatory Imperatives. PLoS, 6(9) e21578.
- **Enrichment:** Abou-Ismaïl UA (2011) Are the effects of enrichment due to the presence of multiple items or a particular item in the cages of laboratory rat? Applied Animal Behaviour Science 134, 72-82. This article is attached separately.

## Maori perspectives in the use of animals in RTT

NAEAC has often been asked by AECs for information on Maori perspectives on the use of animals in RTT. We have struggled to come up with any coherent perspective, nor have we been successful in getting speakers on the subject to our AEC workshops, despite numerous efforts. Having said that, we acknowledge that those AECs who deal with native species appear to have this area covered, with their own contacts within the Maori community as well as through other agencies such as DOC. However, for your information the following website provides a nationwide directory of iwi contact details: <http://www.tkm.govt.nz/>

## Disaster management in animal facilities

Since the Christchurch earthquake, there is a heightened awareness for the need to make provision for managing research animals in disastrous situations. ANZCCART News, Volume 24 No 4 carries a major article on this subject by CEO Geoff Dandie. This is available on line at: [http://www.adelaide.edu.au/ANZCCART/news/an\\_email\\_24.4.pdf](http://www.adelaide.edu.au/ANZCCART/news/an_email_24.4.pdf)

## Implementing the Three Rs in behavioural and physiological research

Are you going to be in the UK in July? A symposium is being held on the 4-5<sup>th</sup> July in London by the Association for the Study of Animal Behaviour (ASAB), the Society for Experimental Biology (SEB), and the National Centre for the 3Rs (NC3Rs) on **Implementing the 3Rs in behavioural and physiological research**. Topics include:

- Physiological measurements in the field
- Improved handling of animals
- Non-invasive sampling
- Use of invertebrates and embryos to replace adult vertebrates
- Neuroscience, Development and Toxicology
- Behaviour, Phenotyping and Welfare

More information can be found at <http://www.nc3rs.org.uk/event.asp?id=1673>

## Replacing animals with nerves on a chip

From the *Understanding Animal Research* website comes the following news that demonstrates a commitment to the Three Rs.

A team of scientists have developed a way of guiding nerve cells to set up complicated networks that mimic the ones found in the brain. The work provides a new tool to researchers studying neurological diseases like Alzheimer's and could reduce the number of animals needed in such research. Nerve cells in the brain carry signals in only one direction down long bodies called axons. These connect



different parts of the brain. Current techniques using cells in petri dishes do not allow scientists to set up networks and lack the complexity of animal models. This severely limits the research possible. Using animals is also not perfect as it makes studying what happens inside the nerve cells very difficult. The new technique bridges the gap between the two systems using a brilliantly simple method. The new system involves cell culture chambers connected by one-way channels. These force axons to grow in the direction the scientists need to connect one cell to the next, forming a network. It is a bit like growing an electrical circuit. To test their model the scientists put cortical neurons (from the outer part of the brain) and striatal neurons (from the inner brain) into the two chambers. The neurons grew and formed a connection allowing an impulse to travel from the cortical neuron to the striatal one, mimicking their relationship in the brain. The new technique will allow scientists to study how the neurons communicate and how diseases can disrupt the ability of the neurons to transmit signals.

[http://www.understandinganimalresearch.org.uk/latest\\_news/research\\_news/show/512/replacing\\_animals\\_with\\_nerves\\_on\\_a\\_chip/?n\\_id=40&u\\_id=825](http://www.understandinganimalresearch.org.uk/latest_news/research_news/show/512/replacing_animals_with_nerves_on_a_chip/?n_id=40&u_id=825)

### **Animal Welfare Strategy and review of the Animal Welfare Act 1999**

NAEAC continues to work on its submission to MAF on the review of the Animal Welfare Act. We have already received one submission from an AEC which we have passed to MAF, advising the particular AEC that it should resubmit when the official submission process starts. There are also issues within that submission that NAEAC will champion as well. All AECs are encouraged to submit to MAF on issues they have with the Act and suggestions for how it could be improved. Submissions can be sent to Colin Holden - [Colin.Holden@maf.govt.nz](mailto:Colin.Holden@maf.govt.nz).

Information on the project can be found at:

<http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/regs/animal-welfare/strategy-legislation-review>

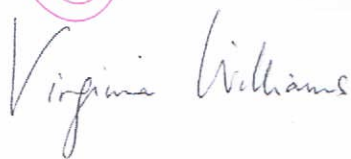
### **AEC Workshop**

NAEAC will be hosting a workshop for AEC members in Wellington on **Friday 16 November 2012**. Feedback received from the 2010 workshop will be taken into account when finalising the 2012 programme, but if you have any suggestions for topics you would like to see included please send them through to: [NAEAC@maf.govt.nz](mailto:NAEAC@maf.govt.nz)

### **NAEAC Three Rs Award**

Nominations for the 2012 NAEAC Three Rs Award are currently being sought! See the below for more detail.

Kind Regards



Virginia Williams  
Chair

**The National Animal Ethics Advisory Committee (NAEAC) invites  
applications or nominations for the:**

**THREE Rs AWARD  
2012**

**To reward and promote implementation of Three Rs principles in  
research, testing and teaching**

The Three Rs (replacement, reduction and refinement) are the cornerstone of the ethical use of animals in research, testing and teaching. This award celebrates achievements in the implementation of the Three Rs and promotes the concept within the scientific community and to the wider public. The award is co-ordinated by NAEAC and sponsored by the Royal New Zealand SPCA and is made to an individual, group or institution within New Zealand that shows great commitment to, or innovative implementation of, the Three Rs, or whose work will help to promote awareness of Three Rs principles.

The prize will consist of a certificate and a financial award of \$2,000, which will be presented at the NAEAC AEC workshop on Friday 16 November 2012. Receipt of the award will be publicised in selected media, although specific details of the work involved can be restricted if appropriate.

Applications or nominations (with knowledge of nominee) should be sent to:

NAEAC Secretariat  
c/- Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry  
P O Box 2526  
Wellington 6140

There is no application form but you must provide:

- evidence of how the applicant or nominated individual, group or institution qualifies for the Award (maximum of three pages)
- curriculum vitae of the applicant(s) or nominee(s)
- the names and contact details of up to two potential referees (who may, at the committee's discretion, be approached for comment)

**Applications close on Friday 20 July, 2012.**

Please direct enquiries to the NAEAC Secretariat (email [NAEAC@maf.govt.nz](mailto:NAEAC@maf.govt.nz))