November 14, 2013

Dear Colleagues:

The use of laboratory animals in basic science research is critical for advances in diverse fields. Working with these model systems carries a responsibility and commitment to the care and welfare of the animals, and the health and safety of those working with them. We ask for your help in renewing this commitment.

The University recently underwent a site visit by the Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care International (AAALAC), the accrediting body for animal care and use programs. The site visitors found that conditions in some laboratories suggested the need for some additional monitoring of safety standards in laboratories where animals are used.

While observations in specific areas identified by the auditors have been addressed, beginning in December, all laboratory animal use locations will be subject to survey by EH&S staff upon submission of research protocols with attached Hazardous Materials Appendices. EH&S will survey the use of appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), laboratory attire, engineering controls and other general conditions. The surveys will occur following the submission of an Appendix, and will be followed by a report of observations and required corrective actions. Inspections by IACUC staff will remain focused on animal welfare concerns.

Please note that final or continuing approval of Hazardous Materials Appendices will be contingent upon satisfactory correction of any findings noted during the survey. EH&S will be available to provide any necessary support to assist in the correction of findings and ensure expeditious review of appendices and protocols.

Thank you in advance for upholding our commitment to safe research and animal welfare across Columbia University.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Kathleen Crowley, PA-C, MPH, DrPH
Associate Vice President, Environmental Health & Safety

Cc:
G. Michael Purdy, PhD, Executive Vice President for Research; Professor of Earth and Environmental Sciences
Deborah Stiles, Vice President Research Operations
Mary Jo Shepherd, DVM, Director of the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee
Brian Karolewski, DVM, Interim Director of the Institute of Comparative Medicine