Dear Research Community,

The USDA, OLAW, and AAALAC are very clear in their regulatory and policy language, which state that the use of expired pharmaceuticals, biologics, and supplies is not consistent with acceptable veterinary practice or adequate veterinary care. These agencies do inspect, and can cite, the University of Pittsburgh during any review of our program. The IACUC recognizes that incidences of expired items continue to be identified during internal reviews and can jeopardize this program’s good standing.

To insure compliance with these regulations, expiration dates are checked on drugs, suture materials, iodine solutions, medical materials and supplies (when applicable). When expired items are identified, the incident will be immediately reported to the IACUC and a Non-Compliance notification and warning will be sent via email to the responsible investigator.

Subsequent violations regarding expired items will be brought to the full IACUC, which will result in sanctions that may include monetary fines or suspension of animal research privileges.

To maintain the highest level of animal care, euthanasia, anesthesia and analgesia agents can not be used beyond their expiration date, even if a procedure is terminal. Be advised that any violation of this policy is considered a serious Non-compliance.

For more information, review the IACUC Policy on Expired Drugs and Materials for Animal Research.

Additionally, OLAW and USDA agree that pharmaceutical-grade chemicals and other substances, when available, must be used to avoid toxicity or side effects that may threaten the health and welfare of vertebrate animals and / or interfere with the interpretation of research results. However, it is frequently necessary to use investigational compounds, veterinarian- or pharmacy-compounded drugs, and / or Schedule I controlled substances to meet scientific and research goals.

For definitions and more information, please refer to the OLAW FAQ.

Sincerely,

Frank Jenkins, Ph.D.
IACUC Chair