accredit@aaalac.org
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March 6, 2026

Billy Yates, Ph.D.
Vice Chancellor for Research Protections
Office of Research Protections
University of Pittsburgh
3500 Fifth Avenue, Suite 401
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Dear Dr. Yates:

The AAALAC International Council on Accreditation has reviewed the report of the recent site visit to the University of Pittsburgh at Pittsburgh, The University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The Council commends you and the staff for providing and maintaining an exemplary program of animal care and use. Especially noteworthy were the strong administrative commitment to the program, evidenced in part by the dedicated Institutional Official; the knowledgeable and dedicated animal care staff; the clean and well maintained facilities including the zebrafish locations, the surgical, and behavioral testing areas; the well managed veterinary care program; the appearance of healthy and well cared for animals; the training programs providing pathways to promotion, and diverse compassion fatigue resiliency initiatives; and the comprehensive Environmental Enrichment Program. The Council is pleased to inform you that the program conforms with AAALAC International standards as set forth by the Rules of Accreditation. Therefore, **FULL ACCREDITATION** shall continue.

Council acknowledges receipt of the correspondence dated December 13, 2025 detailing actions taken relative to concerns expressed by the site visitors during the exit briefing. Specifically, the items addressed satisfactorily included: ensuring single housing is justified; ensuring the sterility and efficacy of fluids and agents used; reviewing the biohazard identification and labeling practices to ensure timely and accurate notification of staff; assessing the risk associated with the disposing of waste from cages used with chemical hazards; and ensuring the use of analgesics is in alignment with institutional policy and guidelines.

Council has no further recommendations to offer for improvement of the animal care and use program at this time. We look forward to following your program activities and wish you continued success.

AAALAC International requires an Annual Report that describes any changes made during the year in accredited units. Submitting this report is required to maintain accreditation. In the meantime, AAALAC International should be promptly informed of any significant program changes or adverse events. Guidance on these reporting requirements may be found at aaalac.org. If requested, AAALAC International can also provide a separate letter confirming that your animal care and use program is accredited.

Should you have any questions regarding your participation in the AAALAC International accreditation program, please feel free to contact the staff at the Executive Office.

Sincerely,



David G. Schabdach, D.V.M., M.S.
President, Council on Accreditation

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