Inaugural Edition
Welcome to the first issue. The purpose of this sometimes periodic, one-page newsletter is to help fill the information gap between the IACUC meeting room and the laboratories and procedure rooms where animal research occurs. The goal is to keep you informed of the “News from the IACUC” such as notifications of new policies or policy changes, new guidance from the regulators, TOPAZ Web P&R improvements, protocol and review procedure changes, and other news. Why sometimes periodic? No news is good news and if there is no news, there won’t be a newsletter. Why one page? It’s more effective on a bulletin board than in a file cabinet (or trash can).

IACUC to Divide and Conquer
After many years as a single committee, the IACUC will split into two committees in April. To be known as the Blue IACUC and the Gold IACUC, named after Emory’s colors, the two committees will each meet twice monthly. The Gold IACUC will meet on the first and third Wednesdays while the Blue IACUC will meet on the second and fourth Mondays. To keep pace with the growing expertise required to review the vast range of science, the committee had grown very large and unwieldy. After experiencing longer and longer meetings and having to defer agenda items to the next meeting due to time constraints, the split should improve our time efficiency in both reviews and business items. The IACUC has divided protocols into two groups by department. For consistency, protocols from the same department will be reviewed by the same IACUC. Dr. Sam Speck will chair both committees.

Compliance Reminders
- Routinely check your drugs for expiration.
- “Do not recap needles,” says OSHA.
- Beware of “Protocol Drift.” Make sure you are only performing approved procedures – no more, no less
- If you store drugs, chemicals, or test samples in a refrigerator, please post a sign “Not for Storage of Human Food.”
- Please! Please! Please! When euthanizing an animal, make sure it is dead before placing the carcass in the cooler!!!! This is a serious, reportable noncompliance that should never occur.

Upcoming Site Inspections
- March 16: YNPRC Main Building – NHP areas
- March 22: Yerkes Field Station
- March 29: O. Wayne Rollins Research Center

TOPAZ Web P&R Maintenance
Due to the number of changes made on a daily basis to this system, regular system maintenance is scheduled nightly. Beginning immediately, system maintenance will occur between 1AM and 5AM. But don’t worry Mr. Night Owl, the system will still be up and running continuously but you may experience slower screens during this time period.

IACUC Office Welcomes New Employee
Musa Hasan joins the staff of the IACUC Office as a new protocol analyst. Musa comes to us with an MS degree in Cancer Biology and has gained much experience in various clinical and pre-clinical research settings where compliance with the IRB, FDA, DEA, and IACUC was required. He has animal experience with many laboratory animal species. He started with us last Friday and is currently undergoing his TOPAZ Web P&R training. Welcome Musa!

Tip for Swifter Review – Amendment Strategy
The IACUC has defined the addition of personnel to a protocol as an administrative amendment (ADM-AMD). The committee has delegated the approval of ADM-AMDS to the IACUC Office. Currently, the median review time for an ADM-AMD is one day (yes, 1 day)! The median for Designated Member Review (DMR) amendments is currently 16 days and for Full Committee Review (FCR) amendments, the median is 29 days. Here’s the tip: If you need to submit two amendments with one of those being the addition of personnel and the other (adding a procedure, adding more animals, adding a hazardous agent, etc.) requiring either DMR or FCR, do not combine into one amendment. Submit the personnel addition first, get approval and then submit the other amendment. Otherwise, your new personnel won’t be allowed to work with the animals until the multiple issue amendment is approved 2-5 weeks later.

Next Issue
The IACUC Office introduces the Animal Research Classifieds.