

3 March 2020

Shira Ovadia, D.V.M.
Attending Veterinarian and Director
Preclinical Research Center
Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
Building M9, Room 3, Faculty of Health Sciences
P.O. Box 653
Beer-Sheva, 8410501
Israel

Dear Dr. Ovadia:

The AAALAC International Council on Accreditation has reviewed the report of the recent site visit to Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Beer Sheva, Israel. The Council commends you and the staff for providing and maintaining an excellent programme of laboratory animal care and use. Especially noteworthy were the well designed and well maintained ABSL2+ quarantine facility; the clear and straightforward method of posting single-housing justification cards; the very efficient and effective cage card system; and the thorough and proactive involvement of the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) Chair and Attending Veterinarian in the site visit and their strong knowledge of the animal care and use programme. The Council is pleased to inform you that the programme conforms with AAALAC International standards as set forth by the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*, NRC 2011; and the *Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Research and Teaching (Ag Guide)*, FASS 2010. Therefore, **FULL ACCREDITATION** shall continue.

Council acknowledges receipt of the correspondence dated 13 January 2020 and 23 December 2019 detailing actions taken relative to concerns expressed by the site visitors during the exit briefing. Specifically, the items addressed satisfactorily included: beginning to conduct regular IACUC facility and programme evaluations as indicated in the *Guide* and required by the Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare; increasing environmental enrichment devices for single housed chickens; enhancing environmental enrichment for chickens, fish, sparrows and rats on cardiac pacing studies; retraining research groups on the meaning of humane endpoints and their responsibilities for post procedure monitoring and animal welfare; ensuring that the anesthesia machine in the gerbil quarantine room is used only when there are no quarantine animals present; replacing rusted support equipment in the cage wash area; validating and improving sound control in the bottle lid washing area; refurbishing the rodent testing room with updated equipment and re-evaluating sanitation procedures in other satellite facilities; and refurbishing the walls, replacing shelving and removing untreated wooden pallets in the feed storage room in the Preclinical Research Building.

Enclosed is a further recommendation for improvement of the animal care and use programme. The Council on Accreditation notes that there is no obligation for institutions to make programme changes based on suggestions for improvement. Implementation of suggestions is, however, one means of promoting a high quality animal care and use programme.

AAALAC International requires an Annual Report detailing changes made during the year in accredited units. If your institution chooses to implement programme modifications in response to the suggestion described in the enclosure, the Annual Report provides an opportunity to summarize the actions taken. In the interim, AAALAC International expects to be apprised in a timely manner of significant programmatic changes or concerns should they occur. Please note that, at your request, AAALAC International will provide your institution with a separate

Shira Ovadia, D.V.M.

3 March 2020

Page 2

letter simply verifying that your animal care and use programme is accredited. Should you also wish to distribute an electronic copy of this letter to programme staff, a Portable Document Format (pdf) version will be sent upon request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bart Carter', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Bart Carter, D.V.M., M.S.

President, Council on Accreditation

BC:cma

001529

Enclosure

Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
Beer Sheva, Israel
File # 001529

Suggestion for Improvement:

In general, the floors in all facilities other than the Preclinical Research Building showed deterioration, such as chipped surfaces, rust and cracks. According to the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (Guide)*, NRC 2011 (p137), floors should be moisture resistant, non-absorbent, impact-resistant, easy to repair and resistant to adverse effects of chemicals. They should be capable of supporting racks, equipment and stored items without becoming gouged, cracked, or pitted. The effectiveness of sanitation of the facilities could be negatively impacted by the presence of cracks and rust. These surfaces should be repaired or refurbished, and maintained regularly to ensure all floor surfaces meet recommendations in the *Guide*. Council acknowledges the 13 January 2020 and 23 December 2019 communications indicating that arrangements are being made for completion of this within six (6) months, and encourages timely implementation of the repair plans.