

AAALAC, Intl. Accreditation site visit

Howard University 2017

The Association for the Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care, International (AAALAC, Intl) will conduct its regular triennial site visit to Howard University on November 20, 2017.

AAALAC, Intl. is a non-profit organization comprised of professional societies in the life sciences. It is not a governmental agency, has no regulatory or legal function, and does not formulate animal care or use policies or regulations. Rather, AAALAC, Intl. accreditation is a voluntary peer-review process, and certifies whether standards of excellence in animal care programs are attained and maintained. Howard University's animal care and use program and facilities have been accredited since 1967.

The AAALAC, Intl. evaluation process begins with review of a comprehensive written description of the institutional animal care and use program. The description includes facility locations, institutional policies regarding animal care and use, veterinary care, husbandry practices, qualifications of personnel, and operation of the IACUC. Additionally, AAALAC, Intl. expects that the exercise of compiling this description will prompt institutions to conduct a thorough in-house-self-evaluation.

AAALAC, Intl. follows its review of the program description with a site visit by a team that includes veterinarians specializing in laboratory animal medicine and researchers who are familiar with the care and use of animals. The evaluation incorporates professional judgment and performance-based criteria.

AAALAC, Intl. accreditation is accepted as evidence of compliance with policies on animal care and use set by the National Institutes of Health, American Heart Association, Department of Veterans Affairs, Department of Agriculture, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, among others. Of the top 100 institutions receiving funding from the NIH, over 90% have achieved AAALAC Intl. accreditation.