

## The Greenwood Genetic Center Research Policies

### Responsibility and Authority of the Attending Veterinarian

Approved:

#### **Statement:**

In order to demonstrate the Center's commitment to the requirements of the Animal Welfare Act, the Health Research Extension Act, and to acquire accreditation for our animal care and use program and our Aquatic Facility by the Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care - this policy establishes the responsibilities and authority of the Attending Veterinarian to carry out his/her duties in accordance with these laws and accreditation standards. Additionally, this policy demonstrates the Greenwood Genetic Center's commitment to ensure the public confidence in our care and use of animals.

#### **Policy:**

The Attending Veterinarian is legally mandated to ensure adequate veterinary medical care is provided to all vertebrate animals (i.e. zebrafish) owned by or located at the GGC Research and Aquatic Facilities.

This policy specifically assigns the responsibility and authority to develop, implement, administer and oversee all aspects of high quality animal health and well-being, husbandry, and veterinary care to the Attending Veterinarian.

Compliance with the regulations outlined in the Animal Welfare Act regarding research facilities and veterinary care (Part 2, Subpart C- Section 2.33), as well as the Health Research Extension Act of 1985-PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, requires all personnel using vertebrate animals (i.e. zebrafish) at the GGC, or who provide animal husbandry or any other aspect of veterinary care, have a clear understanding of the laws, regulations, and standards, as well as the GGC policies, protocol and approved Standard Operating Procedures. The Attending Veterinarian need also be versed in standards outlines in the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (Chapter 3) - Veterinary Medical Care, as well as the Guidance for the Husbandry and Care of Zebrafish. In accordance with the GGC's commitment to acquire AAALAC accreditation, the Attending Veterinarian must also be versed in the AAALAC Rules of Accreditation.

### **Guidelines Regarding Veterinary Care:**

1. In situations where the jurisdiction of the Attending Veterinarian is unclear or disputed, or if lines of communication are disrupted, the authority of the Attending Veterinarian to carry out his/her responsibility will take precedence - as stated in the policy above. The policy assigns authority to ensure the provision of adequate veterinary care and other aspects of animal care and use to the Attending Veterinarian or another person acting as designee under the Authority of the Attending Veterinarian.

2. When possible, the Attending Veterinarian will solicit the input of the Principal Investigator or responsible research staff member prior to implementing treatment of euthanasia of research animal.

3. If the responsible Principal Investigator and the Attending Veterinarian are unable to communicate or are not in concurrence on the need for treatment or euthanasia, the Attending Veterinarian is authorized to implement isolation or euthanasia or other action based on his/her professional medical judgment. The Attending Veterinarian will promptly notify the Principal Investigator, the IACUC, and the Institutional Official of the action taken.

Approved:

Date: 05/22/2018

Steven A. Skinner, M.D.  
Director of the Greenwood Genetic Center