



## ***TODAY'S HEADLINES***

*October 12, 2016 - Vol. 36, No. 20*

### **FEDERAL**

[President Signs Stopgap Bill Keeping Government in Business through December 9](#)

[Congress in Recess until after Election](#)

[NIH Announces Operating Plan under Current CR](#)

['Participating in the Public Policy Process' Webinar Rescheduled for November 10](#)

### **ANIMAL ACTIVISM**

[Convicted AETA Felon Issues Personal Challenge](#)

[New York City Attracts Numerous Animal Rights Law Meetings](#)

### **INTERNATIONAL**

[Netherlands Pursues Non-Animal Test Alternatives](#)

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

[Belated Congratulations to AAALAC International's Executive Director Kathryn Bayne](#)

[IACUC 23: The Charge & The Challenge](#)

[Next ILAR Roundtable, Animal Models for Microbiome Research: Advancing Basic and Translational Science](#)

### **CALENDAR**

# FEDERAL

---

## President Signs Stopgap Bill Keeping Government in Business through December 9

With a day to spare before the end of the fiscal year September 30, President Obama signed the spending package ([Public Law 114-223](#)) keeping the federal government funded through December 9. The approved stopgap measure provides supplemental funds to address the Zika virus, and appropriations for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) through the end of fiscal year (FY) 2017. Most federal agencies are funded at a rate 0.496 percent below their FY 2016 operating level. The Zika portion of the package provides \$1.1 billion to be available through the end of FY 2017, with \$152 million for vaccine development, diagnostics, and other Zika research through the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

## Congress in Recess until after Election

The House and Senate have adjourned until after the November 7 election. Both chambers will return from the campaign trail recess on Monday, November 14.

## NIH Announces Operating Plan under Current CR

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) announced October 7 ([NOT-OD-17-001](#)) it is operating under a continuing resolution (CR) as reported in the first article above. This CR continues government operations through December 9, 2016 at 99.504 percent of the FY 2016 enacted level. As a result, NIH “will issue non-competing research grant awards at a level below that indicated on the most recent Notice of Award (generally up to 90% of the previously committed level),” continuing the procedures identified under [NOT-OD-16-046](#) and consistent with NIH practices during the CRs of [FY 2006 – 2016](#). Upward adjustments to awarded levels will be considered after FY 2017 appropriations are enacted, but NIH expects institutions to monitor their expenditures carefully during this period. All legislative mandates that were in effect in FY 2016 (see [NOT-OD-16-044](#) and [NOT-OD-16-048](#)) remain in effect. Questions regarding adjustments applied to individual grant awards may be directed to the Grants Management Specialist identified on the Notice of Award.

## **‘Participating in the Public Policy Process’ Webinar Rescheduled for November 10**

Due to a major and then intermittent Internet service outage in Washington yesterday, NABR was forced to cancel its webinar, [Participating in the Public Policy Process](#), soon after it started. The full session has been rescheduled for Thursday, November 10 at 12:30 to 1:30 EST. This date should provide plenty of additional material for discussion, as we all will have recently participated in our civic duty of voting for the next President of the United States.

NABR regrets this inconvenience and appreciates your patience. Yesterday’s connection outage was an unforeseen and unavoidable problem. There have been no significant technical issues with our previous 27 educational webinars. Since not all those previously registered may be available on the upcoming date, if you wish to attend Participating in Public Policy Process on November 10, [please click here](#) to re-register. For those who did not register for yesterday’s program, you have additional time to do so

## **ANIMAL ACTIVISM**

---

### **Convicted AETA Felon Issues Personal Challenge**

[Kevin Johnson \(aka Kevin Olliff\)](#), who has served three years in federal prison for violating the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act (AETA), published a statement October 3 in the [Earth First Journal](#) and on the [North American Animal Liberation Press Office \(NAALPO\)](#) website regarding his experience and the still pending federal court appeal of his conviction. “For those cheering the Center for Constitutional Rights (CCR) challenge to the AETA,” Johnson says “let’s challenge our own comfort.” After describing his motivation for freeing mink and essentially destroying an Illinois fur farm, he explains “We all know that agribusiness, pharmaceutical companies, and fur farmers – those who drafted and lobbied for the AETA – are most comfortable when the questions posed by animal advocates are pushed to the side.” He continued, “Undertaking the action that landed me in prison, I sought not only to save individual animals, but also to challenge the comfort that allows all of us to ignore the billions of other individuals who remain trapped in the same systems. That action was my challenge to my own comfort and complacency as well.” Johnson was [released from federal prison in Chicago last May](#) and transferred to a halfway house in California.

## New York City Attracts Numerous Animal Rights Law Meetings

The 24th Annual [Animal Law Conference](#) was held last weekend at Pace University in New York City. The keynote speaker of the “sold out” event was Nonhuman Animal Rights Project (NhRP) President Stephen Wise, who has lead that group’s efforts to establish personhood for some animals. While most of the formal agenda dealt with food and farming issues, the conference concluded with a session on “[Animals and the First Amendment](#).”

Reportedly, New York City United for Animals (NYCUFA) has scheduled a forum on October 27 at the New York University School of Law. The headline speaker is Lauren Gazzola, one of six SHAC activists convicted for conspiracy under the Animal Enterprise Protection Act (AEPA). Humane League, Their Turn, Direct Action Everywhere and several other animal rights group representatives are expected to attend.

The [Animal Law Committee of the New York Bar Association](#) will hold a free program November 2: Updates on Animal Research and Alternatives. This program will discuss recent updates in the law and animal research, including alternative methods of safety testing, the treatment and retirement of laboratory animals and consumer advocacy opportunities.

## INTERNATIONAL

---

### Netherlands Pursues Non-Animal Test Alternatives

The Netherlands National Committee for the Protection of Animals Used for Scientific Purposes (NCad) is expected to respond this month to a request from the Dutch Minister for Agriculture “for advice regarding a phase-out timetable for animal procedures.” In a [letter dated May 2](#), the committee chair said, “. . . the NCad sees no possibility of internationally assessing and garnering support for its ideas regarding a phase-out other than in a very limited context. Such an assessment will be necessary in a later stage given the intensive international collaboration that the phasing out of animal procedures will require. Working within these constraints, the NCad will do its utmost to be able to submit in October 2016 clear advice that sets out concrete goals and the necessary steps for phasing out animal procedures.” Presumably, such response will be

available well in advance of the December 8 symposium NCad is organizing to discuss the matter. The symposium "[Phasing out animal experiments, the next steps: applying openness, scientific justification and transparent reporting](#)" will be held at the European Parliament in Brussels on December 8, 2016.

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals in the UK (PETA UK) [has hailed this development](#) and says their "scientists" have been meeting with NCad staff. However, PETA UK seems to be oversimplifying the issues involved and underestimating the task ahead, as well as its likely timetable.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

---

### **Belated Congratulations to AAALAC International's Executive Director Kathryn Bayne**

The NABR Update somehow neglected to report AAALAC International's appointment of Kathryn Bayne, MS, PhD, DVM, DACLAM, DACAW, CAAB, as its new Executive Director. Effective July 1, Dr. Bayne became the chief executive of AAALAC International, headquartered in Frederick, Maryland. She oversees the administration of offices in North America, Europe and Asia; provides oversight of AAALAC's Accreditation, Program Status Evaluation and Education & Outreach programs; and serves as AAALAC International's spokesperson. Dr. Bayne succeeds Dr. Chris Newcomer, who retired after serving eight years as AAALAC's Executive Director. Belated congratulations to Kathryn!

Also, welcome back to James R. Swearingen, DVM, who has been appointed AAALAC International's Global Director. Most recently, Dr. Swearingen was Head of Comparative Medicine for the National Biodefense Analysis and Countermeasures Center in Frederick, Maryland. He has served as a member and president of AAALAC's Council on Accreditation, and in other roles over the previous two decades. He assumed his new position on September 6. Please see the full announcements online at "[AAALAC International](#)," now the organization's legal, official name.

### **IACUC 23: The Charge & The Challenge**

The New Jersey Association for Biomedical Research (NJABR) will present [IACUC 23: The Charge & The Challenge](#) October 21, 2016 in Somerset,

NJ. NJABR's annual IACUC Conference is the region's premier training event for Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee members and managers, laboratory animal veterinarians, animal welfare compliance specialists, laboratory animal care staff and other research team members. This year's conference will focus on opportunities to improve laboratory animal welfare, while reducing regulatory burdens, cutting red tape and creating efficiencies within institutions. For additional information, see [IACUC 23](#).

## **Next ILAR Roundtable, Animal Models for Microbiome Research: Advancing Basic and Translational Science**

The next Institute of Laboratory Animal Research (ILAR) Roundtable, a free 2-day workshop, is scheduled December 19-20, 2016 to examine animal models of microbiome research. Invited speakers will discuss challenges of standardization and biological variability in using gnotobiotic model organisms, examine the translatability of preclinical studies to humans, identify alternative model organisms that can be used in microbiome research, and discuss strategies for expanding the infrastructure and tools for conducting studies in these types of models. [Click here to view the final agenda](#), including speakers and topics. This workshop will be held at the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering & Medicine, 500 5th Street NW, Washington, DC. The session will be freely available via webcast and interested persons can register to attend by [clicking here](#).

## **CALENDAR**

---

### **October**

- |                       |                                                                            |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b><u>12-13</u></b>   | <a href="#">USDA AWIC Workshop on AWA Info Requirements</a>                |
|                       | Beltsville, MD                                                             |
| <b><u>21</u></b>      | <a href="#">NJABR IACUC 23</a>                                             |
|                       | Somerset, NJ                                                               |
| <b><u>26 - 29</u></b> | <a href="#">Association of Primate Veterinarians (APV) Annual Workshop</a> |
|                       | Charlotte, NC                                                              |

**30**        [ASLAP CE Seminar](#)

Charlotte, NC

**30- Nov. 3**   [AALAS 67<sup>th</sup> National Meeting](#)

Charlotte, NC

**November**

**11-15**        [AAMC Learn Serve Lead 2016](#)

Seattle, WA

**12-16**        [Neuroscience 2016](#)

San Diego, CA

**December**

**5-6**        [SCAW Winter Conference](#)

San Antonio, TX