

The Beacon

Research Integrity News



The Future of FAU's Animal Care and Use Program

At an open forum for all animal researchers at FAU on April 17, Vice President for Research Daniel Flynn, Ph.D., addressed an audience made up of faculty, staff and students from the Boca Raton, Jupiter, HBOI and Davie campuses representing the colleges of medicine, science and education. The vision he shared with the group was one of progress and change.

In Flynn's short tenure at FAU, he has recognized the potential of FAU and specifically its research enterprise. Flynn announced that pursuing accreditation from Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care or AAALAC for the animal care and use program is a top priority. All those involved in animal research and the animal care and use program at FAU will be affected by this decision.

FAU's animal care and use program encompasses a wide array of species and includes all biomedical labs as well as the wildlife research programs at the university. From the fish on the HBOI campus, to the songbirds on the Davie campus, to the turtles and sharks at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center to the biomedical lab research in the College of Medicine, all facilities and labs working with animals will be impacted.

Success in the accreditation process will hinge on the collective effort of all those involved in the animal program at FAU. One of the first commitments in this process will be the centralization of facilities to eliminate redundancies of effort and expense. This focus will be on housing traditional lab animals, such as rodents, in one facility and centralizing, where possible, aquatic species to another.

"Moving FAU forward to an AAALAC accredited animal care and use program will afford our researchers the advantage of increased collaborations and demonstrates FAU's commitment to the responsible care and use of animals in science," Flynn said.

