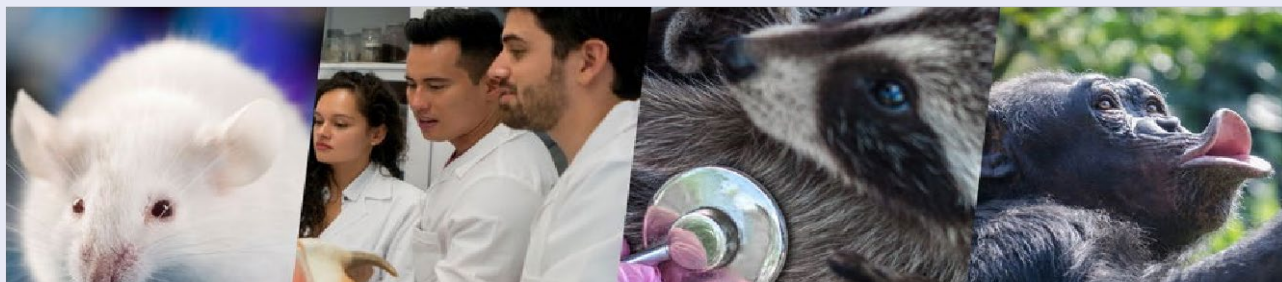


Staffing that Sticks: How Workplace Culture Helps Retain Top Talent in Lab Animal Care– Second Webinar

Roundtable on Science and Welfare of Animals Involved in Research



Thursday, December 4th, 2025, 1:00 – 2:00pm ET | 10:00 – 11:00am PT

Purpose The third and final session of the webinar series, [*Careers that Care: Strengthening the Future of Animal Research Professions*](#) will focus on careers in research compliance.

This series is hosted under the auspices of the [Roundtable on Science and Welfare of Animals Involved in Research](#), part of the [Board on Animal Health Sciences, Conservation, and Research](#) (BAHSCR) at the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine.

The *Careers that Care* webinar series focuses on strengthening the workforce in the field of research that involves animals. From recruitment through retention, each session offers practical strategies to attract, support, and advance professionals in animal care, research compliance, and administration.

This webinar, [Launching Careers in Research Compliance: Internships and Pathways for the Next Generation – Third Webinar](#), will explore strategies for attracting and preparing the next generation of professionals in research administration and compliance—key roles that support the ethical and responsible care and use of animals in research.

Drawing from real-world examples, panelists will share insights on how students discover and access these opportunities, and how organizations can make pathways into compliance and research administration more visible, inclusive, and rewarding. The discussion will also touch on how established employees can continue to grow through mentorship and ongoing professional development.

The webinar will include Q&A, offering participants the opportunity to engage with panelists about actionable strategies for building awareness, accessibility, and sustainability of career pathways in research administration and compliance involving the care and use of animals.

**1:00pm–
1:05pm**

Welcome

Mitch Hebner, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine.

**1:05pm–
1:45pm**

Panel Presentations

Panelists:

**Forging a path to careers in Animal Research Compliance:
Student internship programs with the IACUC**

Christina Nascimento, Brigham and Women's Hospital

Undergraduate Internship in Post Approval Monitoring

Mirayda Torres-Avila, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

Moderator:

Stacy Pritt, Texas A&M University System/Roundtable member

**1:45pm–
2:00pm**

Question & Answer Session

Webinar Adjourn

Speaker Biographies

Stacy Pritt, DVM, is currently the Associate Vice Chancellor and Chief Research Compliance Officer for the Texas A&M University System. Previously, she served in senior leadership positions at the Harvard Medical School and the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center. Dr. Pritt is board certified by the American College of Animal Welfare and is certified in multiple areas of research compliance. As Chief Research Compliance Officer at the Texas A&M University System she is responsible for research compliance at 12 state universities and 8 state agencies. She is the recipient of numerous awards for her training, speaking, and management activities including the AALAS George R. Collins Award, LAWTE Founders' Award, LAMA Ron Orta Memorial Award, TurnKey Leader of the Year Award, and Washington State University's College of Veterinary Medicine Outstanding Service Alumni Award. In 2021, she was named Distinguished Faculty for the Society of Research Administrators International (SRA). Dr. Pritt received her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from Washington State University.

Christina Nascimento, MS, CPIA, is the IACUC Manager at Brigham and Women's Hospital as well as an IACUC Committee Member at BWH for over ten years. She earned her bachelor's degree in Pre-Veterinary Science and Biology at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, master's degree at UMASS Amherst concentrating in Molecular Genetics, and holds a Certified Professional IACUC Administration (CPIA) certification from PRIM&R. As the IACUC Manager, Christina oversees day to day IACUC operations at BWH, the second largest recipient of NIH funding among hospitals in the country (only behind the top recipient, sister hospital Mass General Hospital/MGH). She was a part of the leadership team establishing the entire Animal Care and Use Program for BWH, and was an integral member of the group that designed and implemented the in-house eIACUC system, Insight, now available commercially for other institutions as well. Before coming to BWH, Christina was a leader in the Harvard Medical Area/School IACUC office for over 10 years, and served as an HMS IACUC member as well. She has over 2 decades of experience in IACUC policy and animal welfare, as well as managing a vast Inspection and Post Approval Monitoring Program for dozens of animal facilities and satellites and hundreds of research laboratories. From her years as both an investigator and a veterinary technician, Christina has experience with a variety of species such as rodents, agricultural animals, aquatic species, cats, dogs, horses, and non-human primates. Christina is also the Vice-Chair of the PRIM&R Council for Certified Professional IACUC Administration (CPIA), and is both an established speaker on complicated IACUC topics and published author in regulatory compliance journals.

Mirayda Torres-Avila, PhD, MHEA, is the Assistant Director of Post Approval Monitoring Compliance at The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, where she leads the assessment of the regulatory compliance program for research activities approved by the IRB, IACUC, and IBC. With a Ph.D. in Agronomy from Purdue University and an M.A. in Higher Education Administration from UTRGV, she brings over a decade of experience in research compliance, teaching, research, and program development. Dr. Torres-Avila has taught extensively in biological sciences, mentoring students and leading community outreach. Her research spans molecular genetics and evolution, as well as bilingual STEM education. She is a published author, research contributor, and recipient of multiple awards recognizing her excellence in accessibility, teaching, and community engagement. Dr. Torres-Avila is committed to fostering ethical and impactful research environments.