

## MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN OF MEDICINE

I am writing to give you an update on research, and again ask for your patience as we work to restore this vital mission:



1. We are working very hard to have extended hours during the week and access to labs on weekends available in our research buildings. Three of the factors impacting the ability to offer extended hours are the functioning of the fire safety system, the locks on the buildings, and adequate outdoor campus lighting near and around the buildings.
2. I want to remind you that while we have worked to have the research labs occupied quickly and safe for our employees, these environments are still unstable. You or your laboratory staff should be checking your laboratory equipment regularly for tripped circuits, etc. Unfortunately some freezers were lost last week due to the failure of one of the power feeds in one of our buildings.
3. Our animal facilities are still stressed. We are working to bring Building 21 and MRB on-line as soon as we can. A realistic estimate at this point is that animal orders and animal procedures will not be back to normal until the end of November or early December. ARC and FOAM staff will work diligently to beat that deadline, but for planning purposes, the late November /early December timetable is our best current estimate. Any request for an exception to work with existing or on-site animals should be made to the IACUC and justified on scientific grounds. We expect to have all health testing results the week of November 10. We are hopeful that the colony health status has not changed, but need to know whether it has and whether or not restrictions will be necessary. PIs who want to visit their animals to check on them, perform a census, or mark the cages for change of status, should contact ARC at 772-4070, 4069, or 4068 to arrange a time for one person to be escorted into the animal room by ARC staff.
4. All new hires will continue to require review from the Provost/CFO on a case by case basis. We will let you know when the hiring status changes.

Finally, I want to recognize both the Animal Resource Center staff and the Office of Sponsored Programs staff for their amazing work. The ARC team worked to care for animals before, during and after the storm. This included working in many areas without lights, running water, air conditioning, or elevators, and carrying water and supplies up and down numerous flights of stairs. Staff members of the OSP were also on the job after the hurricane, working from their homes or wherever they had relocated to answer email and phone queries from UTMB researchers. Within a couple of days after the storm, OSP prepared and posted on the Emergency Website a set of Frequently Asked Questions to guide researchers regarding proposal deadlines, clinical protocols, and laboratory status information. Additionally, OSP staff began remotely processing proposals, negotiating and processing contracts, establishing award accounts and ensuring that reports were submitted on time. I would also like to recognize the efforts of Research Services and the PIs in keeping the freezers chilled during and after the storm.

Sincerely,

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Dean, School of Medicine  
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