



Dartmouth College

Animal Care and Use Program

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee

### IACUC Policies and Procedures

**Title:** Oocyte Harvesting in Xenopus

**Purpose:** Multiple Survival Surgeries on one animal are generally not permitted unless scientifically justified. Laparotomies in Xenopus for the purpose of oocyte harvesting are a relatively simple procedure. Given that Xenopus tend to tolerate it well and rarely have any post procedural complications, multiple harvests will be permitted on an individual animal provided the guidelines below are met.

**Policy:** The total number of laparotomies to which the animal may recover should be limited to five, with the 6th one being terminal. Each surgery should occur no more frequently than every two weeks, and there should be alternation between the right and left ovaries for collection.

**Procedures:** Surgeries should be done using aseptic technique. The area should be sanitized and the instruments and gloves should be sterile. The mucus layer of the Xenopus should be disturbed as little as possible – therefore, a gentle chemical sanitizing solution, such as Nolvasan®, should be used in prepping the surgical area. Internal sutures should be absorbable and skin layer sutures should be non-absorbable (removed 10-14 days later).

Records should be kept identifying individual animals and dates of surgical procedures performed.

#### **Alternative to Surgical Collection**

Female Xenopus may be induced to lay eggs (instead of a surgical harvesting), using hormone injections. Induced frogs should be kept in individual tanks. Investigators should allow at least 3 months between harvests.

Exceptions to this policy may be granted by the IACUC for compelling scientific reasons.