
Letter to the Editor

AAALAC International and Government Agencies

Dear Editors,

In the article "Considerations and Reviewing a Higher Education Teaching Protocol Involving Animals" by Vemulapalli, Tracy H; Donkin, Shawn S; Lescun, Timothy B; O'Neil, Peggy A; Zollner, Patrick A, published in the September issue of JAALAS, Vol 56 No 5 pp 500-508, Figure 1 titled "Selected governmental and grant agencies with regulatory oversight of institutions of higher learning" shows a list of organizations that includes AAALAC International.

We would like to clarify that AAALAC International is a voluntary, nonprofit organization that does not represent any government, is not a grant agency, and does not perform "regulatory" oversight. While representatives of AAALAC International often share public appearances with representatives from government agencies (i.e. PHS, USDA) and visit the same

type of institutions, it is important to note that the AAALAC International assessment and accreditation program is performed as a peer review process by independent professionals in laboratory animal science who work in all types of public and private research organizations. As clear evidence of the independence from the government agencies, AAALAC International performs this activity in the same way in 45 countries and has accredited nearly 1,000 animal care and use programs worldwide. The private nature of AAALAC International applies in every country where the assessment and accreditation process is performed.

We would like to thank the authors for taking AAALAC International into account for the purpose of the article and recognize the quality work performed by the government oversight agencies.

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