



Meet our Animal Husbandry Team

Animal welfare is paramount at Smithers Avanza and we have dedicated ourselves to building a vivarium team that maintains high standards for the well-being of the animals in our care.

Ms. Jeaneth Aquino, Animal Caretaker II, provides a quiet, gentle, and consistent technique to every animal under her care. As a champion of the underdog and the less-noticed, her favorite species is mice. Her specialty is the preparation of hundreds of mouse caging units and enrichment necessary for Smithers Avanza's extensive involvement in mouse immunization studies. She has provided animal care at the Smithers Avanza facility for over 10 years.

Ms. Rosa Hercules, Animal Caretaker III, has over 15 years' experience in animal care and husbandry and has also cross-trained to assist study technicians with sample collection and dose administration. Her diversity provides additional resources for busy study days. She is also recognized by her team for her outstanding QC experience, and offers administrative assistance with the daily management of the husbandry schedule. She enjoys working with the rabbits on Smithers Avanza's developmental and reproductive toxicology (DART) and vaccine studies.

Ms. Eileen Howard-Lucas, Husbandry Supervisor, has nearly 20 years' experience providing husbandry care to laboratory animals. She is experienced with all aspects of animal care and environmental enrichment with non-human primates, canines, mice, rats, guinea pigs, and rabbits. Her favorite responsibility as the supervisor of the husbandry team includes working with her team to provide quality animal care and maximize enrichment opportunities for each animal to allow them to express their species' specific natural behaviors. With her team, she has worked with veterinary staff and piloted techniques to promote social interactions, foraging opportunities and audio/visual stimulation within the more standardized toxicology environment. As hands-on leader, she understands the operational details of every process necessary to maintain sanitation and animal welfare standards in a regulated GLP environment.

Mr. Shane Crawford, Animal Caretaker I, has over 10 years of experience providing care for animals on toxicology studies. He pursued this career because he recognized his love of the animals and his satisfaction in the opportunity to provide a positive impact on biomedical research. He enjoys working with his team and the variety of challenges that come with the diversity of study designs and species. He is specially skilled in working with non-human primates. Recognizing each has its own unique personality, he enjoys tailoring his daily interactions with them to obtain the best behavior and desired cooperation during routine handling for husbandry procedures.

Ms. Rosa Maria Hernandez, Animal Caretaker II, has provided animal care at the Smithers Avanza facility for over 10 years. She prides herself on the care and respect she provides to each animal she handles. Her guinea pig handling was once cited by a regulatory inspector as the best technique the inspector had ever seen. Internally, she is recognized for her skill with canines. She most enjoys the opportunity to care for rodent dams with their litters in the developmental and reproductive toxicology studies performed at Smithers Avanza.