Researcher under FDA investigation since 2000

FDA issued a warning letter in 2001, and has continued investigation to set penalty for cardiology researcher and UA

BY STEPHANIE SCHWARTZ
Staff Writer

Top UA cardiology researcher and emeritus professor of medicine Frank Marcus is under investigation by the Food and Drug Administration for 18 violations of FDA regulations, prompting the UA to make several changes to the policies involving the use of animals for research.

The violations stem from a 1997 study involving Marcus’ work with dogs and cardio ablation, where devices used to regulate heartbeat were tested.

When the FDA investigated Marcus’ lab in 2000, investigators found violations, including the mislabeling of dogs, equipment not being cleaned properly and people conducting research without the proper training.

Marcus said he had never done a study for the FDA — which maintains stricter record-keeping regulations than the university — prior to the cardio ablation study. He said the FDA is incorrect in some of its findings, such as the mislabeling of dogs.

The FDA sent President Pete Likins a warning letter in April 2001 discussing the violations found in the lab, as well as the U of A’s failure to establish a “quality assurance unit” for research.

The unit is responsible for monitoring each study to assure they meet “good laboratory practice” requirements, such as keeping track of how often lab instruments are cleaned.

“The companion found significant discrepancies involving 12 of 19 dog IDs,” the FDA’s warning letter said. “Twelve dogs had no ‘case reports’ and four dogs had no animal care or treatment records. Only 14 of 19 dog IDs were included in the FDA study report.”

The FDA also stressed the significance of the violations.

“The nature and severity of these findings seriously compromises our evaluation of the reliability and integrity of data from nonclinical laboratory studies conducted at your testing facility,” the FDA letter stated.

The FDA is still investigating the situation to decide

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UA computers hacked daily

Cats take a bite out of the Dawgs

Grads would see largest tuition hike in Likins’ plan

Proposal would raise grad student tuition by $250 more than undergraduates

BY LAURA MALAMUD
Staff Writer

The graduate student community had mixed reactions to President Pete Likins’ proposals to increase graduate student tuition by $250 more than the price undergraduates will pay next year.

Likins has proposed to increase tuition by $1,500 for non-resident graduate students, and either a $750, $1,000 or $1,500 increase for in-state graduate students.

“I don’t think it is evil or bad. It is something they have to do to survive,” said Tim Rooks, a third-year creative writing graduate student. “I feel like tuition is already pretty cheap, so increasing the tuition would be the first thing I would do as a legislator.”

The proposed plan would be enacted next year, which some students said is too soon.

“It is still on the low end, but it is greatly affect graduate student life already on the minds of many graduate students, and either a $750, $1,000 or $1,500 increase for in-state graduate students.”

Theresa Seifert, a first-year law student, “I understand that the Legislature is not giving the school as much money as they need, but that is a pretty big hike.”

With issues of teaching assistant workload and graduate student quality of life already on the minds of many graduate students, non-degree representative Tim Collins of the Graduate and Professional Student Council said the additional tuition increase could greatly affect graduate student