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ANIMAL CARE SERVICES **NEWSLETTER**

Volume 9, Issue 1

January 2009

UF- Mouse Models Core

The **Mouse Models Core (MMC)** was opened for business in October 2007, as a fee-based facility to provide UF investigators with genetically engineered mice (GEM), as research models. Our base services are, microinjecting DNA expression vectors, or gene-targeted mouse embryonic stem (ES) cells, that have been prepared by our clients, into preimplantation mouse embryos to produce transgenic mice, or knockout (gene-targeted) mice, respectively. GEM allow researchers to interrogate the functions of specific genes that are implicated in various human or animal diseases, or basic genetic mechanisms.

One of our most important services is free consultation with potential and current clients, to aid them as they plan and carry out GEM production including, DNA design and construction; culture and targeting of ES cells; identifying and ordering "Gene-Trapped" ES cells, i.e., ES cells that are already gene-targeted, and are available for minimal cost from various governmental / commercial consortia; and providing and assisting with various proven laboratory protocols that are crucial for the detection of correctly prepared GEM as the MMC provides them to customers.

We are also developing auxiliary services to facilitate UF investigators' outside collaborations and colony archiving, as the needs in our research community become apparent from investigator requests. To this point, we regularly offer preimplantation embryo collection; mouse line reconstitution from frozen embryos; archiving mouse lines by

embryo cryopreservation; and rederivation / rescue of disease-carrying mouse lines using preimplantation embryos. Other services that we are currently developing include, mouse line reconstitution or rederivation from frozen sperm by *in vitro* fertilization, and by ovary transplantation.



New AALAS Certifications

ALAT

Lauren Schleenbaker- Vet Techs
LaGina Shine- CGRC Breeding Colony
Shaina Wallach- CGRC Breeding Colony

Congratulations!!

New ACLAM Diplomats

Drs. Harvey Ramirez and Bernadette Zamora earned their American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine Diplomat status by passing the ACLAM specialty board certification in July 2008. ACLAM establishes standards of education, training, experience, and expertise necessary for veterinarians to become qualified as a specialist and recognizes that achievement through board certification.



Dr. Bernadette Zamora



Dr. Harvey Ramirez

To have one veterinarian in a lab animal operation earn their ACLAM diplomat status is a good year. Having two veterinarians earn it in the same year is a rare occurrence. This means that now every veterinarian within ACS, aside from residents, is an ACLAM Diplomat. This is a huge advantage to users of Animal Care Services as all of our veterinarians have met the laboratory animal medicine industry's gold standard for education, training, experience, and expertise. This is

another example of how ACS continues to strive to provide the customer service our facilities users deserve. Congratulations Dr. Ramirez and Dr. Zamora!

3-Year Renewal of Animal Contact Program Enrollment

As you know, the Animal Contact Program is how the University ensures all individuals who will come into work-related contact with animals are formally enrolled in the Occupational Medicine program.

A relatively recent improvement to our program is the implementation of a 3 year renewal policy. Unless directed by an Occupation Medicine healthcare provider to submit more frequent Risk Assessment updates, all individuals with work-related animal contact are required to submit a three year re-submission. The form is available at -

<http://www.ehs.ufl.edu/Bio/Animal/acweb.htm> . If you open the MS Word version you can type directly onto the form and then print it for signatures and submission. Do not forget to include either a Purchase Order number or a Purchase Card number.

Each individual's current enrollment status is tracked by either EH&S staff, the IACUC staff, or their respective Departmental staff. Individuals not in a current Occupational Medicine program status will be denied permission to have contact with animals as part of their work duties.



GO GATORS!!!

Staffing Announcements

- ❖ **Dr. Karl Andrutis**, DVM, MS, DACLAM, has joined our veterinarian staff as the Assistant Director, of Animal Care Services. Dr. Andrutis comes to us from Tufts University's Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine in North Grafton, Massachusetts where he served as the Director and Attending Veterinarian since 1999. He has significant experience in facility design and construction of animal facilities and with regulatory compliance oversight. At ACS, Dr. Andrutis leads the Clinical Services area as well as the ACS Surgical Suite. Welcome Dr. Andrutis!!



Dr. Karl Andrutis

- ❖ **Ms. Denisse Cancel**, BS, LATG, LVT has joined Animal Care Services. She was the Assistant Director, Operations at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine at Yeshiva University in New York, NY. She has a broad background in laboratory animal facility management and recently opened an ABSL3 facility at Albert Einstein. She is currently managing the Cancer and Genetics Research Center's animal facility, the ACS infectious disease section, and husbandry logistics operations. When ACS occupies the new Biomedical Science Building she will manage this animal facility as well. Welcome aboard Denisse!



Denisse Cancel

Hiring Staff Working with Rodents

When Animal Care Services hires staff to work with rodents we do the normal things that you would expect:

- Have a physical exam performed to ensure that working with animals will not endanger the health of the individual
- Perform a criminal background check
- Verify education and work performance with past employers

In addition to these requirements, we now ask if the person keeps snakes or rodents as pets. The reason we do this is that rodents kept as pets or reptile feeder stock can carry diseases that would have a negative impact on the health of the rodent colony and your research. If the person does keep rodents as pets or feeder stock we will consider the person for non-rodent husbandry positions but not for rodent positions. We do this to protect your animals' health and your research.

You can help protect your research by asking your potential lab staff hires if they keep rodents as pets or reptile feeder stock. If they do it could represent a potential threat to your rodent based research and the research of others. Help protect your research by considering this when hiring new rodent handling lab staff. We recommend not hiring the person that keeps rodents. We all have an interest in protecting the rodent colony's health and the rodent based research.



Best Practices

Develop a reliable system for detecting, diagnosing, and treating animal weight loss early on.

- Develop cumulative chart records where weights of each animal can be graphed and visualized over the long term.
- Weigh your animals frequently and on a regular schedule.
- Pay close attention to any weight loss.
- Communicate animals' weight loss to the veterinary staff or IACUC.
- Be sure to report to the veterinarian if an animal's weight loss reaches the maximum allowed in your approved protocol.

Perform only those procedures described in the protocol.

- Ensure that everyone on the protocol is familiar with all its procedures, and that they understand the protocols must be followed to the letter.
- There can be no deviation from a protocol without prior approval from the IACUC.

Allow only investigator staff listed on the protocol to perform procedures on animals.

- Assure that all staff are added to the protocol and have been thoroughly trained to perform all procedures requested of them.

References:

UCSF IACUC Best Practices for Ensuring Quality Care of Research Animals

Lab Animal Technician of the Year

Dear Committee Members,

I want to nominate Sabine Odenbreit for this year's Lab Products Animal Technician Award Program, District IV, honors. She started out an OPS (extra help, non-benefited position) husbandry tech with ACS about 18 months ago and has shown her worth enough to have moved from TEAMS (permanent fulltime, benefited position) ALAT to currently a TEAMS

LAT. She has been very dependable (few absences, none unexpected), takes great care of animals in her charge and keeps her rooms in top shape. Sabine joined our staff just after the opening of UF's newest vivarium in the Cancer/Genetics Research Complex. She has been our go to person and anchor at CGRC, working through many new procedures and fluctuating staff. She has readily and impressively worked cage wash and any other area needed. She has been instrumental in training what I would say are UF ACS's best rodent techs. Her productivity in both quantity and quality consistently sets the example for others to follow. As a manager, she makes my job easier by providing timely input and completing assigned tasks without argue or reminder. As a team player, she makes others job easier and more enjoyable, helping other techs get their work done and being generally pleasant to be around. She is one of UF ACS's top techs, tops to me, and one of the best techs I have had the privilege to manage, so I hope she can be recognized in this most formal and appropriate way.

Sincerely,

Robert Gump



Sabine Odenbreit

Congratulations Sabine!!!!



NEW ABSL-3 Facility Now Open

Animal Care Services is proud to announce the opening of its new ABSL-3 High Security Facility.



- 10,000 gsf
- Biological Safety Cabinets in each animal/procedure room
- Data ports in rooms and hallways
- Biometrics security
- 6 animal holding rooms
 - Rodents through Rabbits
- 3 autoclaves
- 1 - 45 pound tissue digester
- 1 “decon” room for use with vaporized hydrogen peroxide
- Environmental monitoring (T, H, Air Pressure, Light, Air Flow)
- Caging systems
- Cubicles with static cages
- Allentown Ventilated Rabbit/Ferret Cage
- Allentown BCU-1000, Biocontainment Unit
- 1 room for future inhalation toxicology research
- 1 imaging suite or animal holding room

For Facility questions please contact

Denisse Cancel, ABSL-3 Coordinator,
at 352-361-2063 or by email
dcancel@ufl.edu

For Fiscal questions please contact

Tina Butts, Assistant Director of Business
at 352-273-7815 or by email
tmbutts@ufl.edu



ABSL-3 Autoclaves and Lab Space

Anesthetic Gas Scavenging Canister Usage

For gas scavenging using canisters, the following guidelines should be followed:

- a. Gas scavenging canisters must be used vertically and suspended off of the table top or floor because the exhaust ports are in the bottom of the canister.
- b. At installation and immediately before using any anesthesia machine, the gas scavenging canister should be removed and weighed to evaluate the remaining adsorption capacity. The weight should be recorded and dated on the side of the canister.
- c. Immediately following the use of an anesthesia machine, the number of hours the machine was in use should be recorded next to the dated weight information.
- d. Canisters that exceed 25 grams (F/Air) or 100 grams (Enviro-Pure) of accumulated weight must be removed and placed in a sealed plastic bag and discarded by EH&S as they require hazardous material handling.
- e. Thoroughly clean the induction chamber immediately after each use to avoid residual anesthetic waste release into the environment (which can continue to be released for up to three hours).

In addition, the anesthetic vaporizers are required to be calibrated on an annual basis.

Animal Care Services (ACS) publishes this newsletter to communicate with those who use or provide support to the animal care program at the University of Florida. This newsletter contains various items of importance to animal users. We use e-mail as our primary method of distributing the newsletter. Please print this newsletter and distribute it to members of your department. If you did not receive this newsletter by email and would like to be added to the email list, please send an email message to lindsayrogers@ufl.edu with “Add to ACS Newsletter” as the subject. This and all past issues of the newsletter can be accessed at <http://acs.ufl.edu/newsletter.shtml>.