Can you replace your mouse research lines easily by ordering from commercial vendors or colleagues at other institutions? If not, you should seriously consider cryopreservation of your germplasm as a relatively inexpensive insurance policy to protect against loss due to unexpected disaster. With new breakthroughs in reproductive technologies you can cryopreserve and recover mouse strains quickly, reliably and cost-effectively. Several resources are available to UNC researchers to accomplish this.

- Mutant Mouse Regional Resource Center (MMRRC) at UNC (http://www.med.unc.edu/mmrrc) specializes in preserving and recovering valuable mouse lines. If you have a mouse line that is published, please visit www.mmrrc.org to apply for strain submission to our public repository. If accepted, there will be no fee for services. However, we will publish the strain as being available to the research community and we will take responsibility for distributing the strain to those requesting it. It is our policy, as well as NIH’s, that all published strains should be deposited in the public repository for research community use. If for any reason this is not possible, we will consider archiving the strain for you in the UNC private archive. MMRRC at UNC offers the following cost effective services for UNC Investigators: Sperm and Embryo Cryopreservation and Cryorecovery. Sperm cryopreservation is an easy and cost-effective option to preserve your strain. Sperm cryopreservation works best with single gene mutations and common genetic backgrounds, but is available to all mouse lines. Embryo cryopreservation as a highly effective way to preserve your line is recommended for lines with multiple genetic mutations or uncommon/mixed backgrounds. MMRRC recommends storing 150-200 embryos to properly archive your line. This can take multiple attempts. In vitro Fertilization (IVF) and embryo cryopreservation can be highly variable between strains as well as with individual mice. You may store your samples in our freezers or can take possession of them after cryopreservation and store them in your own liquid nitrogen freezer.

In vitro Fertilization

- IACUC & OACU Updates

To strengthen our compliance with the Guide for Care and Use of Laboratory Animals 8th Edition, the IACUC has re-reviewed the Environmental Enrichment policy for our animals. Please refer to the updated Environmental Enrichment Program for Animals for further details of the program. The Rodent Tumor Burden Policy has been updated as well. Please check to make sure you are using the appropriate parameters for humane euthanasia or request an exception to this policy in the form of an amendment to your protocol.

Reminder: CO2 euthanasia must always be followed by a secondary means to verify death, and should NEVER be considered the sole means of euthanasia.
New Veterinary Cards!
You may start seeing some new, Carolina Blue cage cards coming into circulation with the title; STABLE. These cards are to indicate animals that were previously under veterinary care, and have resolved their clinical issue but still appear “abnormal”. To illustrate, if an animal was under observation by the veterinary staff for a period of time, and it was determined that there was no longer an active clinical issue with the animal; however the animal still appeared “abnormal”; a blue STABLE card would be placed. A date and description will be written on the card to indicate the abnormal appearance, and if anything changes or another animal in the cage presents with anything, the cage should be flagged again for veterinary attention.

New Treatment!
Mouse dermatitis is one of our most prevalent clinical issues on campus. We now have a new topical treatment available. It is 100% natural French green clay, and is designed to absorb dirt, oils, and bacteria from the skin. There are no antibiotics or steroids, so it is a good alternative treatment if either of those treatments effects study protocols. First, the dermatitis is cleaned with dilute chlorhexidine. Then, after the skin is dry, the green clay paste is applied topically to the lesion. Voilà! A mouse mud mask.

Information exchange!
Academy of Surgical Research: Advancing Medicine Through Information Exchange
“Founded in 1982, the Academy of Surgical Research promotes the advancement of professional and academic standards, education and research in the arts and sciences of experimental surgery. The Academy interfaces with medical and scientific organizations, and governmental agencies in establishing and reviewing ethics, theories, practices and research pertaining to surgery and promotion of the results for clinical application.”
The Academy also offers training and learning opportunities, as well as certifications as a way to formalize your surgical training. There are three certifications you can work towards; Surgical Research Technician or Surgical Research Specialist, and Surgical Research Anesthetist. For more information on how to prepare and apply for the opportunity to sit for these certifications visit: http://www.surgicalresearch.org/.

Reminder!
The use of MB-10 is critical in keeping our colonies clean and pathogen free. Do not forget to clean hoods and lab equipment before and after use, as well as spray gloved hands in between cages. Work wet!

DLAM Administrative Updates

DLAM’s New Accounting Manager can be contacted at 966-5630. Additional phone contacts within the Accounting area are as follows: Animal Ordering (843-6571), Billing for Investigators’ last names starting with A-M (966-4732) and Billing for Investigators’ names starting with N-Z (843-9249).

“RAMS” On-line ordering, billing, inventory and transfers. All animals ordered by or housed in DLAM facilities except mice have been transferred to this new on-line system. The development team is testing the management of all mouse ordering, billing, inventory and transfers in a test system in preparation of adding them to RAMS. Please contact 966-5630 with any issues regarding this new program.

DLAM 2012 Holiday Animal Ordering and Delivery Schedules have been distributed to all investigators and lab coordinators. If you did not receive a copy, please check the DLAM Website at http://research.unc.edu/offices/laboratory-animal-medicine/index.htm or contact the appropriate individuals at the above accounting numbers for any additional questions.

Reminder!! DLAM strives to provide excellent laboratory animal management and veterinary care for your research animals. Please give us feedback on how well we are meeting your needs. If you and your lab workers have not already completed the DLAM User Survey, please take a few minutes to complete it at https://unc.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_e2JeXT6MEUAzTZX. We will close the survey and tally the responses in December, so that we can begin to address issues identified in the Survey.

DLAM Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Revision (effective week of 12/3/2012) In an effort to better protect DLAM employees, researchers and the animals we provide care for, we are updating our personal protective equipment (PPE) requirements. In addition to the equipment currently required, employees and investigators working with rodents will now be required to wear disposable tyvek sleeves over the coveralls, making it easier to ensure there are no gaps in protective gear between their gloves and the disposable coveralls.

Employees will also change gloves each time they begin working with animals from a different investigator. This will be accomplished by either replacing the gloves they are wearing with new gloves or wearing double gloves and removing a pair before starting with the second group of rodents. If you or your employees work with multiple investigators’ animals, we recommend that you also change gloves between investigators’ animals. Please continue to work wet by spraying your gloves with MB-10 in between each cage as we strive for as clean an environment as possible for the animals.

New signage will be posted on DLAM animal room doors indicating the addition of sleeves to PPE requirements.

For questions or to submit an article or share any news contact Judith Nielsen at judith_nielsen@med.unc.edu.
Questions & Answers

Animal Transfers

Question:
I am collaborating with Joe Blow in Genetic Medicine and want to transfer some of my mice to him. Can I just carry them over to him, or do I have to jump through DLAM hoops?

Answer:
Sorry, you have to jump through DLAM hoops! It is important for a number of reasons. First, DLAM needs to make sure that the movement of animals does not compromise the health of the colony/facility to which the animals will be moving. Is there a quarantine in your facility that would require testing of the animals for pinworms, MPV or other agents before they are moved? Additionally, any movement of animals to the Upper Basement of Genetic Medicine requires a two week period of fenbendazole medicated feed and treatment with selamectin prior to movement. Secondly, the addition of animals onto the new PI’s protocol needs to be checked and numbers subtracted from that PI’s protocol. Lastly, new cage cards with the new building and room number need to be printed, so the cages will not be billed to you after you give the mice to your colleague. For mice, you must complete a DLAM Internal Transfer Form and submit it to the Transport agents in Genetic Medicine. They are able to quickly review most requests and print cage cards for you, so the move can take place within a short time, but any potential health and biosecurity issues can be quickly addressed to protect all the animals and research projects. Currently, all animal transfers except mice are accomplished online through your ACAP account. If you have any additional questions or concerns regarding transfers, don’t hesitate to call the transport agents at 966-0711 or 843-5031.

Director’s Corner

Dear Colleagues:

The UNC Animal Care & Use Program has initiated this new electronic communication tool as a means of improved information exchange between the animal care and use program and the UNC research community. It is our intent to publish a number of issues each year, approximately on a quarterly basis, but driven by the need to share new, enhanced, useful, or practical information on how to more seamlessly interact with the UNC program for animal care & use.

While the Division of Laboratory Animal Medicine (DLAM) will serve as editor and publisher, this is an animal program effort. DLAM will lend counsel in each issue with a Q&A section focusing on topics of concern to researchers at UNC, updates from the research world outside of UNC, and upcoming important deadlines. The Institutional Animal Care & Use Committee (IACUC) will provide reviews of program enhancements, process adjustments, or regulatory changes. The Division of Laboratory Animal Medicine (DLAM) will from time to time describe critical animal care or husbandry concerns or other facility updates.

We do hope this is not solely a one way information exchange. Please submit your comments, questions or concerns regarding the newsletter. Please direct them through the following email address: judith_nielsen@med.unc.edu.

Working together, we can assure the UNC program for animal care and use remains nationally recognized for the humane, progressive, and productive manner in which we advance the causes of human and animal health and the environment.

Please forward this E-newsletter to members of your laboratory.

Best wishes for a safe and productive year,

Craig Fletcher, DVM, PhD, DACLAM
DLAM Director and Assistant Dean for Animal Research Resources