University of Louisville
Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee
Policies and Procedures

Testing of Cell Lines and Other Biological Materials for Rodent Pathogens

Policy: All biological materials (*e.g.,* cell lines, tumor tissue, sera) of rodent origin and non-rodent biological materials that have or may have been passaged through rodents must be tested for potential rodent pathogens by a Comparative Medicine Research Unit (CMRU) approved method prior to being placed into live rodents in UofL animal facilities. Results demonstrating the absence of pathogens must be attached as an "Other Study Document" in iRIS for review prior to final approval of the *Proposal* describing their use.

Rationale: Various rodent pathogens have been shown to infect cell lines and other biological materials. When these infected materials are injected or otherwise introduced into live animals, infection of the animal may occur with the potential for the pathogen to spread to other rodents in UofL animal facilities. The animal care and use program has been mandated to maintain rodent species Specific-Pathogen-Free (SPF) because of the devastating impact adventitious infection has on ongoing research programs.

Procedures, Guidelines, and Exceptions:

1. IACUC approval of biological material use is contingent upon demonstrable absence of rodent pathogens. This may require the omission of portions of a study from the IACUC *Proposal* until such time that biological use is deemed necessary and testing is completed. In such cases, modification of a previously-approved *Proposal* to include the use of such substances is the appropriate mechanism.

2. For assistance with testing or shipping biological materials, contact the CMRU Import/Export Coordinator.

3. Some vendors may be able to supply acceptable certification that materials are free from murine pathogens. Note: ATCC does not routinely test for all of the CMRU excluded agents; cell lines from ATCC must be tested. The CMRU Veterinary Faculty will assist the IACUC in the evaluation of any results and vendor certifications. Biological materials that are acquired from UofL SPF colonies (*e.g.,* blood products, primary cell lines, tumor tissue) are exempt from testing unless an excluded agent was identified in the colony of origin at the time of collection.

4. The approved method of assessment is PCR testing (*e.g.,* IMPACT™ I test or equivalent) performed by a CMRU-approved diagnostic laboratory. Testing will include all "CMRU Excluded Agents," which are those specific pathogens for which the institution has included in its SPF list. Retesting is required each time an agent is ordered. Investigators must submit an administrative modification in iRIS with the testing results attached as an "Other Study Document" for veterinary review prior to agent use.

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