

# CCMS – Charles River Labs Offsite Housing Initiative

Center for Comparative  
Medicine and Surgery  
**TOWN HALL**

Thursday, November 11, 2021



**Mount  
Sinai**

# CCMS/Charles River Offsite Housing: Overview

- ▶ WHAT DOES THIS PROGRAM MEAN FOR YOU?
  - Opportunity for investigators with **personnel limitations** to meet animal research goals
  - Avoid **limitations** of the current on-site **housing space**
    - Production/ Expansion Lines
    - Maintenance Lines
    - Poor Breeding outcomes

# CCMS/Charles River Offsite Housing

- ▶ Isolator housing
- ▶ Space for up to 10,000 Mount Sinai cages
- ▶ Weekly pickup & delivery on a dedicated truck
- ▶ Animals can be scheduled for delivery to Mount Sinai with one week's advance notice
  - Tuesday morning pickup from Mount Sinai
  - Wednesday morning delivery to Mount Sinai
- ▶ Orders placed via Sinai Central TOPAZ Elements Animal Ordering system interface



# Key Facts: Project Management

## Dedicated Project Managers at CRL

- ▶ Primary contact for on-going projects
- ▶ Updates on major project milestones:
  - Animal status upon arrival
  - Project updates, matings set up, litters born
  - Quantity of animals born and dates for HM
  - Genotyping results
  - Coordinates with a team of people behind the scenes
- ▶ Consults with PI's to determine breeding plans
- ▶ Project updates made weekly into easily accessible online interface (ILIMS) and via email



# CCMS/Charles River Offsite Housing: Logistics

- ▶ Plan to roll the program out officially **1<sup>st</sup> quarter** next year

## HOW DO I GET STARTED?

- ▶ **Preliminary application** should be completed
  - Important Contact Info
  - Description of animals (strain phenotype)
  - Project/ Breeding goals (production/maintenance)
- ▶ Once reviewed for completeness, **CCMS will contact you** to schedule a time to pack your animals for the **weekly Tuesday shipment to Charles River**

Charles River Lab Offsite Housing		Genetically Engineered Models & Services Project Initiation Form	
<b>The below individual's will have access to the electronic animal logs on Charles River website.</b>			
<b>All fields must be completed.</b>			
<b>Section 1. Contact Information</b>			
PI First Name:		PI Last Name:	
GCO#:	GCO Expiration:	Fund#:	
Phone #:	Email:		
<b>Primary Lab Contact</b>			
First Name:		Last Name:	
Phone#:	Email:		
<b>Secondary Lab Contact</b>			
First Name:		Last Name:	
Phone#:	Email:		
<b>Section 2. Please select the current CCMS Animal Housing Location</b>			
Building Name: <input type="text" value="Select"/>		Room#: <input type="text" value="Select"/>	
Other Location			

# Take Home: Benefits to Off-site Housing

	Onsite	Off-site
<b>Cage Per diem rate</b>	<b>\$0.98</b>	<b>\$0.98 *</b>
<b>Colony Management</b>	Lab/research staff needed to tail clip for genotype/ set up breeding schemes	<b>Charles River handles it ^</b>
<b>Time</b>	Consumed with addressing animal related issues: breeding, sick reports, overcrowding	<b>Charles River handles it</b>
<b>Personnel</b>	Lab/research staff needed to address animal concerns	<b>Charles River handles it</b>
<b>Research</b>	Research is offset by animal related obligations	<b>Staff can focus on research goals</b>

\* Reflects negotiated discount and CCMS subsidy to maintain equivalence to onsite per diem rate

^ Additional fee-for-services available upon request

# Testimonials

## **Dr. Scott Russo** *Professor of Neuroscience and Psychiatry*

Director of the [Center for Affective Neuroscience](#) and the Brain Body Research Center at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

- ▶ No change in productivity or breeding of off-site animals.
- ▶ Ease of having animals returned to Mount Sinai was essentially like ordering B6 mice from a vendor.
- ▶ Savings in terms of costs and staffing.
- ▶ Streamlined the process of breeding and genotyping.
- ▶ Freed up a lab member to do actual science.

# Testimonials

## Dr. Stacey Baker

*Assistant Professor, Oncological Sciences*

## Dr. Premkumar Reddy

*Professor Oncological & Pharmacological Sciences*

- ▶ Litters are always healthy and the pups are at the right size and stage of development based on their dates of birth.
- ▶ We housed these mice offsite at CRL and they bred very well there.
- ▶ As for communicating with CRL and getting the tail and/or ear samples for genotyping, that worked very well. I just picked them up from Annenberg and genotyped them as if I clipped them myself. So that was very convenient.

# Testimonials

## **Ezekiell Mouzon** *Research Laboratory Manager for Dr. Eric Nestler*

Department of Neuroscience, Pharmacological Sciences and Psychiatry

- ▶ Frees up staff from being occupied with weaning, ear tagging, tail clipping.
- ▶ Frees up space in mouse rooms for actual research.
- ▶ CRL staff are very knowledgeable about breeding
  - Better position to set up breeding to reach target production numbers
- ▶ Convenience of weekly deliveries

# CCMS/Charles River Offsite Housing: Contact Information

- ▶ Contact myself or Chineta Pullin to receive form to begin the process

**Kelly Yamada, VMD, DACLAM**  
**Clinical Veterinarian**

Tel: 212-241-7849

Email: [kelly.yamada@mssm.edu](mailto:kelly.yamada@mssm.edu)

**Chineta Pullin, A.A.S., B.S., M.S., L.A.T.**  
**Colony Management Manager**

**CCMS Vivarium Training Specialist**

Tel: 212-241-3008

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