CCMS – Charles River Labs Offsite Housing Initiative

Center for Comparative Medicine and Surgery

TOWN HALL

Thursday, November 11, 2021
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 1st 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
# Take Home: Benefits to Off-site Housing

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

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