CCMS – Charles River Labs Offsite Housing Initiative

Center for Comparative Medicine and Surgery
Faculty Advisory Committee Meeting

Tuesday, January 25, 2022
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 delivery to Mount Sinai
  - THURSDAY morning pickup from Mount Sinai
- **Requests through TOPAZ Elements**
Key Facts: Project Management

Dedicated Project Manager at CRL
Angela Thomas

- 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
- PI’s will have access to Internet Colony Management (ICM) portal
  - Web based application with 24/7 access to colony
CCMS/Charles River Offsite Housing: Logistics

Plan to roll the program out officially 1st quarter this 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 Thursday shipment to Charles River
## Take Home: Benefits to Off-site Housing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Onsite</th>
<th>Off-site</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cage Per diem rate</td>
<td>$1.02</td>
<td>$1.02 *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colony Management</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>Time</td>
<td>Consumed with addressing animal related issues: breeding, sick reports, overcrowding</td>
<td>Charles River handles it</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personnel</td>
<td>Lab/research staff needed to address animal concerns</td>
<td>Charles River handles it</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research</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
FAQs

- **Per diem rate** at CRL same as on campus rate

- **Tissue samples (tail snips) for genotyping**
  - No charge for biopsy collection
  - Samples returned to Mount Sinai once weekly on dedicated truck
  - Lab can genotype as desired
  - CRL-Transnetyx outsourcing available for a fee

- **Internet Colony Management (ICM) portal**
  - Training sessions have been offered and are available upon request
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

Chineta Pullin, A.A.S., B.S., M.S., L.A.T.
Colony Management Manager
CCMS Vivarium Training Specialist
Tel: 212-241-3008
Email: chineta.pullin@mssm.edu
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