

Version: 1.0 Effective Date: 8/24/2012	TESTING BIOLOGICALS USED IN LABORATORY RODENTS POLICY	Supersedes Document Dated: N/A
---	--	---

I. Background

All rodent colonies housed in the Office of Laboratory Animal Care (OLAC) animal facilities are screened for infectious diseases and are free of excluded viruses and other microbial agents capable of interfering with research. Because biologicals are a potential source of contamination with pathogens capable of introducing disease into rodent colonies, the health of the colonies and the integrity of research can be endangered by the inadvertent introduction of untested biologicals.

II. Policy

- A. All biological materials of unknown status are to be tested prior to inoculation into rodents at UC Berkeley. Biologicals should be tested based on the history of the cell line and the animal facility.
- B. New biological materials must not be introduced into rodents in any OLAC animal facility without prior consultation with the OLAC veterinary staff and ACUC approval.

III. Definitions

Biologicals – Materials originating or preparations made from living organisms and their products.

IV. Responsibilities

- A. Animal Care and Use Committee (ACUC) and the Office for Animal Care and Use (OACU) – The ACUC will inform investigators that biologicals testing is required in the approval letter for Animal Use Protocols (AUPs) and provide this policy for referral.
- B. Individual – Individuals administering biologicals to rodents must ensure that the biologicals have been tested in compliance with this policy.
- C. Office for the Environment, Health & Safety (EH&S) – EH&S will oversee use of human cells/tissue in rodents through review of the AUP and the Biosafety Use Authorization (BUA).
- D. Office for Laboratory Animal Care (OLAC) – OLAC veterinary staff will review AUPs for the use of biologicals in colony rodents and will evaluate testing history and coordinate testing services with the investigator when necessary.
- E. Principal Investigator (PI) – The PI must ensure that all laboratory members using biologicals in colony rodents are informed of this policy.

V. Applicable Biologicals and their Testing Requirements

- A. All tumors/tissues/cell lines originating from outside the UC Berkeley rodent colony must test negative for excluded rodent pathogens. New acquisitions of the same tumors/tissues/cell lines must be tested.
- B. Tumors/tissues/cell lines that have been passaged in rodents outside the colony since they were last tested must be re-tested.
- C. Human tissue/cells must be tested for human pathogens.
- D. Biologicals may not need to be tested through OLAC if there is significant evidence to prove that they are free from rodent pathogens. Each biological will need to be assessed by OLAC veterinary staff on a case by case basis to determine if further testing is necessary. It is the investigator's responsibility to provide any documentation to OLAC for evaluation of any exemption. For example:
 1. The supplier of the biological can document testing for excluded rodent pathogens, and the biologicals have not been passaged through rodents since that time.
 2. Human cell lines that have not been passaged through rodents do not require testing for murine viruses, but as stated above must be tested for human pathogens.

VI. Arranging for Testing

Testing of tumors/tissues/cell lines or evaluation for exemptions can be arranged through the OLAC veterinary staff at 642-3216.

VII. References

- A. Dartmouth College Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee. *Testing of Tumors, Tissues and Cell Lines to be used in Rodents*. Retrieved on 9 August 2012 from http://geiselmed.dartmouth.edu/arc/iacuc/iacuc_policies/Testing%20Tumors-Tissues-Cell%20Lines%20to%20be%20used%20in%20Rodents_Policy.pdf
- B. Institute of Laboratory Animal Research (ILAR). National Research Council (2011). *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* (8th edition). Washington, D.C.: The National Academies Press.
- C. University of California, San Diego Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee. *Policy and Guidelines for the Use of Biologicals in Rodents*. Retrieved on 9 August 2012 from <http://iacuc.ucsd.edu/policies/Policy17.01.pdf>
- D. University of South Carolina Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee. *IACUC Policy #15: Policy of Use of Cell Lines in Live Animals*. Retrieved on 9 August 2012 from <http://uscm.med.sc.edu/ARF/images/celllines15.pdf>