

Health Surveillance of Colonies:

In both the conventional and barrier halls, sentinels are housed in 15 week cycles in each of the rat and mice rooms. These are young female rodents from an approved vendor. Each sentinel is exposed to soiled bedding from the other animals in that room. Three times a year, a pinworm anal tape test, fecal flotation, and fur mite exam are performed along with serum samples collected and sent out for diagnostic testing of the profile known as Assessment plus from Charles River or Global testing from Radil. Once per year a bacterial culture of the cecum is performed to exclude specific pathogens. Gross necropsy is performed with cecal and pelt exams for parasites and histopathology of lesions when noted. Any positive results of any sentinel testing will result in back up testing, and informing the investigator and trouble shooting and or re training of animal handling to avoid cross contamination of animals. At UNT Health Science Center we are currently pathogen-free.

Currently test that are included in serological panel are:

- a. **Mice** : MHV, MVM (MMV), MPV (MPV1, MPV2, MPV3), MNV, TMEV, EDIM, Sendai virus, Mycoplasma pulmonis, PVM, Reovirus 3, LCMV, Ectromelia virus, MAD1, MAD2, Polyoma virus, Encephalitozoon cuniculi, CARB, Clostridium piliforme, Hantaan virus, K virus, MTV, and MCMV.
- b. **Rat** : RCV, RPV, RMV, KRV, H-1, RTV (Rat theilovirus), Sendai virus, PVM, Mycoplasma pulmonis, Reovirus 3, LCMV, CARB, Hantaan virus, Clostridium piliforme, MAD1, MAD2, IDIR, KRV, and ECUN

UNTHSC DLAM colonies are not regularly screened, but are believed to be free of the following pathogens: helicobacter hepaticus, Lactate dehydrogenase-elevating virus (LDEV), Bordetella bronchiseptica, Corynebacterium kutscheri, Streptobacillus moniliformis, Salmonella, Citrobacter rodentium, and pathogenic streptococci.

Mice from the UNTHSC are potentially colonized with the following organisms: H. muridarum, Pseudomonas aeruginosa, H. bilis, Pasteurella pneumotropica, Proteus spp, staphylococci, and fecal coliforms and enterococci. All DLAM-managed colonies are now declared to be epizootic murine norovirus (MNV) free.

Mice acquired for research purposes at UNTHSC must meet defined health standards and those from nonconventional sources are subjected to rigorous

health assessment and quarantine practices. A detailed description of the quarantine program can be found at www.hsc.unt.edu/departments/lam/ under Policies.

Colony Practices:

Rodent housing rooms, except under special conditions, are under positive relative air pressure with respect to adjacent corridors. Mice are housed either in static microisolator cages or in ventilated caging systems. In the Barrier, cages, food, water, and bedding typically are autoclaved prior to use. At other sites, cages, food, water, and bedding typically are not autoclaved prior to use, but cages are sanitized at 180 degrees Fahrenheit. Cages are opened only in a Class IIA laminar air flow biosafety cabinet and personnel entering rooms must wear dedicated gowns and latex gloves when handling mice and use disinfectant with a parvovirus label claim.

