



MUTANT MOUSE RESOURCE AND RESEARCH CENTER (MMRRC)

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June 14th, 2021

Dear Colleagues,

We would like to provide an update to our letter sent out in May notifying our clients of a finding of *Corynebacterium bovis* in our M3 Mouse Barrier Facility. We have completed a thorough investigation and determined that the sentinel mice had been contaminated from their original stock colony which resided in Room 14. In response, we immediately depopulated the entire colony and removed all sentinels from the building that originated from that colony. None of the mice presented with any clinical symptoms typically reported for *C. bovis*. Since removal of these animals, we have continued to screen a minimum of 10% of our cages on a weekly basis, conducted exhaust and environmental monitoring, and tested cages of animals being exported. Of the over 800 cages screened over the past month, all results have been negative for *C. bovis*.

We have obtained new pathogen-free sentinel animals from a vendor and re-established our sentinel monitoring program. We are currently performing biweekly screening from the sentinel cages and caging system exhaust ducts to increase surveillance beyond our quarterly submissions of sentinel cages for full pathology screening. Our investigation has also included meticulous inspection of our building, the attic space, and external surrounding areas. We did identify wild rodent feces in the attic and evidence that a wild rodent did enter a storage space in our building. We have been working diligently with our campus facilities department to address these issues and enact more stringent facility monitoring and preventative maintenance moving forward. These immediate deficiencies have been corrected.

We greatly appreciate your patience and understanding while we have worked diligently to decontaminate our vivarium from *C. bovis* and restore our barrier facility to full operation. As of June 7th, all operations have returned to normal and we look forward to providing continued support for all of your mouse research needs. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact myself or our customer service team.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kristin Grimsrud".

Kristin Grimsrud, DVM, PhD

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April 14th, 2021

Dear Valued Customer,

As a valued customer of our M3 Mouse Barrier Facility, I am contacting you to inform you we have recently identified *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, an excluded bacteria, from microbiological culture of the gastrointestinal tract of an embryo transfer dam and from fresh feces of her offspring during our standard rodent surveillance screening process.

Further screening has confirmed *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* in the gastrointestinal tract of CD1 animals in our breeding colony, housed in rooms 5 and 7, that is used for generating the pseudopregnant animals. Note importantly that none of the mice have shown any clinical signs of illness, have no abnormalities observed at necropsy, nor have any histopathological evidence of inflammation or other reaction.

Pseudomonas aeruginosa is an opportunistic organism found in the environment, plants, and animals and tends to live in moist environments. This bacterium typically does not cause disease in healthy immunocompetent mice. Our very strict biosecurity practices when handling animal cages include diligent disinfection of holding rooms and animal cage change stations that greatly prevent risk of cross contamination between cages and rooms. Sentinel animals submitted from all other vivarium rooms and drinking water and environmental samples continue to test negative, indicating an isolated incident that has not spread beyond the affected CD1 mice. Additionally, all embryo transfer dams have full necropsies before their offspring are allowed to be transferred for use, so we are confident that any animals that have been exported have not been affected.

Because this is now the third dam to offspring transmission incident in the last 18 months, we have decided to take more aggressive actions to eliminate any remaining sources of contamination. Therefore, we shall be completely depopulating all mice in affected rooms (rooms 5 and 7), conduct a full equipment and caging takedown, deep cleaning, and full decontamination of affected rooms, and re-establish a new CD1 breeding colony from commercially-sourced pathogen-free "elite" foundation stock from Charles River Laboratory. We will be working diligently over the next month to successfully accomplish these tasks while concurrently reorienting projects in progress to minimize operations and disruptions to business activities.

We pride ourselves in operating at the highest level to provide mice to you with superior care. We understand that pathogen positives can be a hindrance to your research, and we apologize for any inconvenience this has caused you. We are investing significant time and expense to investigate and resolve this issue. As a result, we are confident that we will be able to successful eliminate all potentially remaining contamination in order to return operations to normal as soon as possible. We will make sure to send a follow-up letter and update you on this situation once we have completed our transition to the new colony. We are available to answer any questions you may have.

As the veterinarian overseeing the M3 Mouse Barrier Facility and all Mouse Biology Program vivaria and veterinary care, I want to personally thank you in advance for your understanding and provide you with my personal office number and email below for if you have any questions. You may also reach out to our customer service team at any time as well. Please let us know if you have any questions you need clarified.

Best Regards,

Kristin Grimsrud, DVM, PhD

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