Policy 06 – Cell Line Usage and Rodent-Derived Biological Products

Version 2.0
Approval Date: 1/22/07, 3/5/13

**Purpose** – The purpose of this policy is to provide investigators with information regarding the proper testing of certain products to be introduced into live rodents. This is part of the health surveillance program at RWJMS, created to prevent the introduction of infectious diseases into animal use facilities.

**Background** - Cell lines, tissues and body fluids that have been derived from or passed through rodents can harbor infectious agents and contaminate in-house rodent colonies causing large scale, costly, deleterious effects to the animal research program and human health (1,2,3). Transplantable tumors, hybridomas, cell lines, blood products, and other biologic materials can also be sources of both murine and human viruses that can contaminate rodents or pose serious risks to laboratory personnel (4); rapid and effective assays are available to monitor microbiologic contamination and should be considered before introducing such material into animals (5,6).

**Policy** –

The following agents must be tested before introducing into the animals:

1. All cell lines of rodent origin obtained from sources that have not been tested for and documented free of murine pathogens that are being administered to rodents (mouse, rat, hamster) at RWJMS.

2. Any cell lines passed through rodents, including human cell lines.

3. Rodent body fluids (blood and serum), cells, and tissues obtained from sources that have not been tested for and documented free of murine pathogens and intended for use in rodents at RWJMS. This includes rodent sera for use in cell cultures.

**Required testing:**

IDEXX RADIL Lab Animal and Biological Materials Diagnostic Testing

email: idexx-radil@idexx.com  
email: preclinicalresearch@idexx.com

Phone: 800-669-0825; 573-499-5700  
Phone: 800-444-4210 option 5

Fax: 573-499-5701

PCR-Infectious Microbe PCR Amplification Test (IMPACT):

Mice - IMPACT Profile I (20 agent test)

Rats - IMPACT Profile V (16 agent test)

Other laboratories can be used, but must be pre-approved by the TRC Director.

Reporting - Information on the proposed use of rodent cell lines/biologicals must be provided on the IACUC application. Copies of test results must be submitted to the TRC Director for review and approval, prior to the actual use of rodent cell lines. Addition of new cell line(s) for ongoing approved projects also require testing, review, and approval prior to use.

Any exceptions to this policy must have IACUC approval

References -


