

AU - RODENT HEALTH SURVEILLANCE PROGRAM

Health monitoring allows the Division of Laboratory Animals Services (DLAS) veterinary staff to periodically check the health status of rodent colonies at AU. This information helps to define the health status of our rodent colonies and facilitates the early detection of specific undesirable pathogens. Routine monitoring helps to detect the introduction of pathogenic organisms in a timely fashion so that effective countermeasures can be taken.

- Colonies are tested per the following annual schedule: **April (PCR-Rodent Infection Agents (PRIA-prevalent)); August (Serology-Assessment); and December (PRIA-Surveillance Plus)** for organisms on the bio-exclusion list (refer to Rodent Bio-exclusion lists). Various organisms that do not usually cause clinical signs in immunocompetent animals may cause disease in immunodeficient animals or in animals whose resistance is lowered, for example by other disease, experimental procedures or drugs. Genetically-modified rodents may have unanticipated phenotypes, including overt or subtle immunomodulation, which result in disease induced by organisms thought to be commensals or previously unknown in that species.
Test panels for other organisms may be performed as required by specific request of Research Investigators or to investigate a disease outbreak. A service fee may be assessed for additional testing.
- Results of colony testing are posted in a folder in the BOX.
- Investigators will be notified if a new disease is discovered in the colony. However, it is important for investigators to also be aware of what is known to be endemic and what organisms/diseases are not included in the surveillance test panels.
- Periodically, disease eradication efforts may be undertaken in the animal colonies. Investigators are consulted prior to initiation of treatment. The decision to eradicate a disease is usually made based on effects on animals or research and current standards of laboratory animal care.
- The links below are to information on the Charles River Laboratory website, which details information regarding specific rodent pathogens and all testing services available:

<http://www.criver.com/customer-service/resources/infectious-agent-information>

<http://www.criver.com/products-services/basic-research/health-monitoring-diagnostic-services>