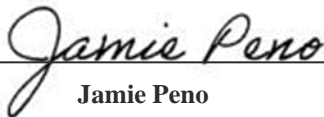
 <div style="display: inline-block; vertical-align: middle;"> DIVISION OF RESEARCH & INNOVATION Research Integrity & Compliance </div>		UNT Lab Animal Facility Standard Operating Procedures	
Title: Sentinel Program in the UNT LAF			
Effective Date:	August 15, 2021	Document Number:	LAF-SOP-05-08.00
Approval/Date: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  _____ Jamie Peno Assistant Vice President, Research Integrity and Compliance </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> 8/15/2021 _____ Date </div> </div>			
REVISION HISTORY			
Date	Section	Author	

PURPOSE

To ensure animal colony health and to test that methods and standards for housing and sanitation are appropriate, the UNT Laboratory Animal Facility conducts sentinel testing annually and as needed in each in-use rodent housing unit. A sentinel program is designed to monitor the health status of animals housed in an animal research facility in an effort to prevent, detect and control the presence of specific infectious pathogens which may adversely affect animal health and/or influence research protocols. Sentinels cannot detect all pathogens but may serve as indicators of adherence to and effectiveness of barrier systems, containment areas, and preventive practices such as cage opening/changing, animal transport and procurement, use of protective equipment, and introduction of biological products.

SCOPE

It is the responsibility of the Principal Investigator to ensure all LAF use procedures are followed to help ensure the health of the LAF colonies.

It is the responsibility of LAF Management to maintain an Animal Use Protocol approved by the UNT IACUC to perform sentinel testing annually and as needed, in the event colony health issues are suspected.

It is the responsibility of LAF Management to ensure procedures are followed by all users of the LAF and to update procedures and provide training and/or re-training as needed.

DEFINITIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS

UNT- University of North Texas, Denton

IACUC- Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee

AUP- UNT approved Animal Use Protocol
SOP/SOP's- Standard Operating Procedure(s)
LAF- Laboratory Animal Facility
AV- Attending Veterinarian
PI- Principal Investigator

PROCEDURES

- I. UNT Lab Animal Facility Annual Sentinel Testing**
 - A.** At least once per calendar year, LAF Management will perform sentinel tests for all rodent colonies and/or rodent housing areas.
 1. Appropriate Sentinel mice and or rats will be ordered and housed per vendor recommendations in the individual colony suites, using a separate cage from study animals.
 - a) Sentinel cages will be clearly indicated on an appropriate cage card.
 - b) Sentinel animals should not be handled or removed from caging by anyone other than approved LAF Staff.
 2. Sentinel animals will be maintained for a period of 12 weeks.
 - a) After 6 weeks post-intake (+/- 3 days), blood samples will be taken per the Sentinel AUP and submitted for comprehensive serology and PCR testing.
 - i. Test results should be retained by the LAF in accordance with study record retention procedures. (see UNT IACUC Procedure 02-28 Required Record Keeping)
 - b) If all tests were deemed clear at the 6 week sample timepoint, sentinels will be maintained for another 6 weeks and testing will be repeated at 12 weeks post-intake (+/- 3 days) and again submitted for evaluation.
 3. At either timepoint, if tests come back indicating a failed test, further evaluation of biomed protocol protocols will be evaluated with the UNT AV and addressed.
 - a) A repeated sentinel trial may be performed as indicated. Should new sentinel trials be required, an amendment to the AUP for additional animals may be needed with appropriate justification and findings.
- II. UNT Lab Animal Facility Sentinel Testing as Needed**
 - A.** Should colony health indicate possible spread of pathogens or disease, LAF Management and/or the UNT AV may request sentinel testing be performed on a particular colony or all colonies as indicated.
 1. As needed sentinel testing should also follow all approved methods in the UNT AUP and may require an amendment to approved animal numbers per year.
 - B.** Rodents requiring quarantine, such as animals coming from colonies that are not brought in from an AV approved source (use of non-approved vendors requires prior AV and IACUC approval, see UNT IACUC Procedure 02-01 Animal Ordering and Procurement), may require a sentinel trial be performed at the discretion of the AV and/or LAF Management.
 1. Sentinel trials for these animals may be required to be included or amended to the AUP of the quarantined animals or may be amended to the LAF AUP at the discretion of the AV.
 2. Costs of sentinel trials due to AUP requirements and/ or protocol related adverse events will be at the expense of the PI.

REFERENCES

1. UNT IACUC Procedure 02-28 Required Record Keeping

5. UNT Animal Research Policies and Procedures

APPENDECES

Lab Animal Facility Procedures