Subject: Occupancy of the DAR HSRB Phase 2 (HSRBp2) Animal Research Facility

1. **When will it be possible to house animals in the DAR HSRBp2 facility?**  
   **Response:** Providing timely issuance of the certificate of occupancy (CO) and completion of requisite testing of the building and its systems by the construction project team, the facility will be open for terrestrial animals (i.e., mice and rats) beginning January 4, 2023. Zebrafish will follow later.
   - DAR notes that the CO was projected to be issued on November 14, 2022, but it was not.
   - If the CO is not issued by November 22, 2022, it is possible that the DAR facility may not open by January 4, 2023.

2. **When can I order mice or rats from an approved vendor for HSRBp2 housing?**  
   **Response:** Animals can be ordered for delivery on the date DAR begins operations in the building or any time after.

3. **Why can we not move in sooner?**  
   **Response:** DAR requires and was approved by the project steering committee to have 20 business days between the time of issuance of the CO, when Emory takes ownership of the building, and when it is occupied with animals to validate the DAR facility to ensure design performance and proper environmental control, monitoring and alarms.
   - Not validating the DAR facility risks security failures, faulty photoperiod control, temperature instability, loss of power, and lack of notification of alarm conditions that can affect animals and experiments.

4. **Is there a quarantine to transfer rodents from colonies in other DAR facilities into HSRBp2?**  
   **Response:** No. Rodents can be moved between the WMRB, Peds/ECC, Clinic B3, Rollins, and WBRB DAR facilities as approved by IACUC; the exception is several rooms in WBRB where fur mites remain suspect.

5. **Will HSRBp2 operate like original HSRB?**  
   **Response:** No. Original HSRB is run as Emory’s high biosecurity facility and home to TMF and EGAC requiring a clothing change to enter, not allowing rodents from other DAR colonies to be transferred in, and excluding murine norovirus, mouse parvovirus, *Corynebacterium bovis*, *Helicobacter* species, and fur mites.

6. **How do I arrange to move my mice or rats from an existing DAR facility to HSRBp2?**  
   **Response:** Labs seeking to move rodents from colonies already in DAR facilities should contact their current DAR facility manager/supervisor to arrange for the cages to be identified for the move and schedule transport beginning in January.
7. If my lab will be in HSRBp2, but I want to keep my rodents in the Clinic B3, Peds/ECC, or original HSRB DAR facilities am I required to move them to HSRBp2? **Response:** No. Investigators may keep their colonies where they have been and some have already chosen to do this.

8. **How do I obtain access to the DAR HSRBp2 facility?** **Response:** The process is the same as other facilities. For those already having cardkeys, arrange for facility on-site orientation with the manager and your cardkey will be enabled for entry. New users must be approved on an IACUC protocol and have completed DAR facility orientation prior to on-site orientation.

9. **Who is the manager for DAR?** **Response:** Neville Whitehead will serve as manager until a fulltime replacement has been named and trained.

10. **Who is my DAR clinical vet for HSRBp2?** **Response:** At this time the clinical faculty veterinarian is Dr. Vanessa Lee.

11. **Is there anything different about the HSRBp2 DAR facility compared to others?** **Response:** Yes. Most significantly the source of lighting will be warm LED and not cool white fluorescent lighting that has been the standard in other DAR facilities.

12. **My animal model systems require surgery. Will DAR provide one or more outfitted rodent surgeries in HSRBp2?** **Response:** Yes. The DAR will provide a core surgery available for use by trained surgeons by reservation.

13. **I require an IVIS for bioluminescence imaging. Will one be available in the HSRBp2 DAR facility?** **Response:** No. Traditionally an investigator has provided an IVIS and DAR/SOM have provided space in the DAR facility with the understanding the IVIS will be shared with others in the locality. The closest accessible IVIS is with CAMS in B3336 of the DAR Clinic B 3rd floor facility.

14. **I require an x-ray irradiator for my studies. Is one available in the DAR facility?** **Response:** No. The closest x-ray irradiator is in the DAR Peds/ECC facility room G16B.

15. **My studies require animal biosafety level 2 (ABSL2) containment housing. Is there ABSL2 in the DAR facility?** **Response:** The facility was designed with the flexibility to accommodate ABSL2 studies. Providing the Institutional Biosafety Committee/Environmental Health and Safety Office have approved the studies to be done in HSRBp2, the DAR will provide housing, ABSL2 training, and necessary containment support.

16. **I use animal models that require containment at Animal Biosafety Level 3 (ABSL3) and understand there are containment housing and support wet lab space incorporated within the DAR facility. How do I gain access?** **Response:** The ABSL3/BSL3 suite will not be operational until approved by EHSO. DAR expects the BSL3 Scientific Director, under recruitment as announced November 4, 2022, to be key in governance and use of these resources.

17. **What IACUC approvals are required to use the HSRBp2 DAR facility?** **Response:** The IACUC office is best to advise on this particularly if animal research activities are intended for laboratory locations outside of the DAR footprint. As approval to house in a specific DAR location is only reviewed administratively, the DAR will not regulate entry.
18. I use controlled drugs for anesthesia and/or analgesia for my animals undergoing and recovering from painful procedures. Are there any requirements if I am moving my lab and secured drug storage? **Response:** Registrants and licenses that are relocating should address these matters with the Georgia Board of Pharmacy and federal Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) as advised by Emory’s Office of Research Compliance and Regulatory Affairs and [University Policy 7.25: Research Use of Controlled Substances](#).

Sincerely,

Michael J. Huerkamp, DVM, DACLAM
Attending Veterinarian

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Document History
- Version 2 was posted November 17, 2022.
- Version 1 was issued November 14, 2022