

Translating Research from Basic Discovery to Improved Patient Care

N C R R F A C T S H E E T

Nonhuman Primate Research Resources

www.ncrr.nih.gov/primates
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The National Center for Research Resources (NCRR), a part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), provides laboratory scientists and clinical researchers with the resources and tools they need to understand, detect, treat and prevent a wide range of diseases. Animal models, such as nonhuman primates, are a critical component of biomedical research, having profound implications for public health. Scientists depend on laboratory animals and other nonhuman models for investigating biological processes, studying the causes of diseases and testing promising new therapies.

Nonhuman primates, in particular, are important for translational research because of their close physiological similarities to humans. They enable discoveries that have direct application to human studies, bridging the gap between basic science and human medicine. Discoveries in animal models are helping scientists test treatments for human conditions such as drug addiction, obesity, malaria, HIV/AIDS and neurodegenerative diseases, accelerating the pace at which these research advances can be translated into treatments for patients.

Through its Division of Comparative Medicine, NCRR offers a wide variety of primate resources for NIH-funded scientists across the nation. A brief description of each of these resources follows.

National Primate Research Centers

Eight National Primate Research Centers (NPRCs) located throughout the country provide animals, facilities and expertise in all aspects of nonhuman primate biology and husbandry. These facilities and resources enable collaborative research among NPRC staff scientists, investigators from the NPRC host institution and other NIH-funded researchers. Major areas of research benefiting from the primate centers include AIDS, avian flu, Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, diabetes, asthma and endometriosis. The centers' specialized resources are intended to support investigators who receive their primary research project funding from NIH, but they also may be used by investigators who are funded by other federal, state and local agencies, as well as by research foundations and the private sector. Together the primate centers have more than 28,000 nonhuman primates of 20 different species. More

information about these resources, including access criteria, is available at www.ncrr.nih.gov/nprc.

Other Nonhuman Primate Research Resources

Other nonhuman primate resource centers have infrastructures similar to the NPRCs and focus their efforts on specific primate species. Examples of these additional resources include baboon colonies, the Caribbean Primate Research Center for rhesus monkeys, specific-pathogen-free colonies of cynomolgus and pig tailed monkeys, owl monkey and squirrel monkey breeding and research programs and a vervet monkey research colony.

Specific-Pathogen-Free Monkey Resources

Rhesus monkeys free of certain viruses (specific-pathogen-free animals) are of importance for AIDS research. To maintain a steady supply of these animals, NCRR supports programs nationwide that provide specific-pathogen-free rhesus monkeys to NIH-sponsored scientists. Each of the resources offers animals and expertise in areas such as vaccine development and AIDS pathogenesis. Facilities are located at the eight NPRCs and the Caribbean Primate Research Center.

Chimpanzee Research Resources

Chimpanzees provide scientists with important data in a variety of research areas. In particular, these animals have been critical to the development of vaccines for hepatitis A and B, and research is underway to develop a candidate vaccine for hepatitis C. NCRR provides funding for three independent facilities that house and/or provide a source of chimpanzees to use in biomedical and behavioral science

research. These funds also provide the professional staff necessary to support the research needs of NIH-funded investigators. Facilities are located in Louisiana, New Mexico and Texas. In addition, NCCR also supports chimpanzee resources at two NPRCs in Georgia and Texas.

Nonhuman Primate Research Reagents

NCCR-supported facilities offer a wide variety of nonhuman primate research reagents for NIH-supported scientists. These carefully validated reagents facilitate research and expedite the discovery process by allowing scientists to focus on their research rather than reagent generation. Reagent resources supported by NCCR include a targeted rhesus macaque microarray, a nonhuman embryo gene expression resource, a genetic typing laboratory, a herpes B-virus diagnosis national resource laboratory, luminex reagents for nonhuman primate research, a nonhuman primate reagent resource, primate genomics and a resource for nonhuman primate immune reagents. Detailed information on each of these resources is available at www.ncrr.nih.gov/primates.

Primate Resource Referral Service

The Primate Resource Referral Service promotes the best possible use of available research primates in the United States. This resource serves as a research clearinghouse, enabling scientists to match their needs for nonhuman primates and primate materials with resources available from other institutions. The referral service promotes animal conservation by reducing laboratory demand on wild populations and speeds communication among scientists. Investigators and colony managers can list their animals available for transfer or sharing and can consult the clearinghouse for new animals available for future projects. Services are provided without charge to government-supported researchers and to other scientists in the United States using primates in their work. The service is also available to scientists in other countries. For more information, visit <http://prrs.wanprc.org>.

Wisconsin National Primate Research Center Library and Information Service

The Wisconsin National Primate Research Center Library and Information Service provides the biomedical research community, scientists, educators and the public with access

to Web-based primate resources. Two of these services are Primate Info Net and PrimateLit. Primate Info Net is a comprehensive Web site with links to research, conservation and education resources related to nonhuman primates. PrimateLit is a free, bibliographic database of more than 200,000 citations on nonhuman primate literature from 1940 to the present. For more information on these services, visit <http://pin.primat.wisc.edu>.

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The National Institutes of Health (NIH) considers very carefully the use of nonhuman primates in research. Long-standing policies require careful review of all biomedical research studies that propose the use of these animals. Projects are funded only if the research's potential impact on human health justifies their inclusion.

See the latest news, policies, education and training materials, and information about animals in research on the NIH Medical Research with Animals Web site at <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/policyair/index.htm>.

All facilities are accredited by the Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care International.



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Research Resources**

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