

# Raleigh R05 Bulletin

## 11/18/11

### Overview

On October 14, 2011, we announced a reovirus contamination in CD<sup>®</sup> IGS rats produced in Raleigh barrier production room 05 (R05). Consistent with our communication policy, this document was created to update you on the status of the Raleigh facility and includes details regarding our follow-up actions.

Testing results show that all barrier rooms at the Raleigh facility remain free of reovirus. These results also indicate that the contamination was confined to R05 and that all other barrier rooms at the site are free of reovirus, as well as other VAF-excluded agents. Testing included a total of 452 samples from all rat, mouse and guinea pig colonies produced at Raleigh (see Table 1). Considered in context of the historically negative test results from these colonies, as well as the extensive biosecurity safeguards in place (separate autoclaves, HVAC, personnel, etc.), the testing confirms the continued VAF/Plus<sup>®</sup> status of all remaining colonies at Raleigh. Also, we have increased the frequency of barrier room testing to supplement our routine health monitoring program.

Table 1.

Species	# of Samples
Mouse	220
Rat	216
Guinea Pig	16
Total	452

### Charles River's Follow-up Procedures

The recycling protocol for R05 is underway. The R05 CD<sup>®</sup> and CD<sup>®</sup> Hairless colonies have been removed and the room has been decontaminated. We have continued to provide collaborative health screening to many customers who received CD<sup>®</sup> rats or CD<sup>®</sup> Hairless rats during the time that R05 may have been infected with reovirus. The impact of the virus on rats and its transmissibility to mice is still unknown. However, no reports of any disease or other biological effects or

research perturbations have been received, nor do we have evidence of the virus being transmitted to mice, or even other rats, at this time. In an ongoing effort to gain a better understanding of this agent, transmission studies using isolator-maintained animals are being conducted by our Professional Services group at our Wilmington, MA site.

Following the outbreak, we performed additional screening via the HAI serologic assay to identify the strain of reovirus detected in R05. The results showed that the R05 contaminating agent was a Reovirus Type 2 (REO 2). Our Research and Development group is currently in the process of modifying our PCR assay to detect REO 2, in addition to REO 1 and 3.

Since it has been nearly four weeks since any rats have been shipped out of R05, we recommend limiting testing to serology on rats that originated from this room. Institutions receiving CD<sup>®</sup> rats from R05 during the period of August 1 through October 14, 2011 may wish to perform serology on sentinel or colony rats exposed to animals from R05. To date, however, we have not confirmed transmission of the REO 2 virus between rats via direct contact or soiled bedding at institutions that received CD<sup>®</sup> rats from R05. These preliminary results suggest REO 2 is not likely to be easily transmissible.

### Conclusion

Charles River strives to prevent contaminations of production colonies within barrier rooms and isolators. Due to our continuous efforts and vigilance, such contaminations have occurred at a rate of less than 1% per barrier room per year in the last decade. We are proud of our biosecurity record, which has kept us at the top of the industry in contamination prevention.

If you have any questions regarding this communication, or questions regarding animals previously received from R05, please contact our Technical Service Department at 1.877.274.8371.