specimens. If you have questions, or prefer to place a request for shipping materials by telephone or email, please contact Technical Services at 1.800.338.9680 or comments@crl.com. Please note that Technical Services should be contacted to request our free animal shipping crates.

Ready-to-Go DIO C57BL/6NCrl Male Mice
Charles River Laboratories currently maintains a continuous inventory of "Ready-to-Go" DIO C57BL/6NCrl male mice. Investigators studying obesity, diabetes, nutrition, metabolic syndrome, stroke, hypertension, as well as atherosclerosis and other cardiovascular diseases may take advantage of these diet-induced obesity (DIO) animal models. Since DIO mice have been pre-fed enriched diets, researchers can purchase these animals ready to use and save valuable time and laboratory space. Mice are group housed in static micro-isolator cages and fed diet #D12492 from Research Diets from 6 to 22 weeks of age. All of our preconditioning rooms adhere to standard cage densities set forth in the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals. We also follow strict biosecurity guidelines developed by our professional staff. Body weight and fasting blood glucose levels are monitored on a weekly basis.

Figure A demonstrates the increase in body weight of C57BL/6NCrl male mice maintained on a DIO regimen compared to a regular chow diet (p<0.05 at week 14-24). In addition, we have measured significantly elevated fasting blood glucose levels in DIO mice at 24 weeks of age (p<0.05), as seen in Figure B.

If you would like more information on our "Ready-to-Go" DIO C57BL/6NCrl male mice, or if you have a custom diet protocol you would like administered, please call our Customer Service Department at 1.800.522.7287.

Running a Better Serology Assay with Anti-Immunoglobulin (Anti-Ig) Controls
Charles River Laboratories Research Animal Diagnostic Services offers a comprehensive array of serology testing. Our primary serologic testing method is the Multiplexed Fluorometric ImmunoAssay™ (MFIA™) for mouse, rat, and simian samples. The bead-based, flexible format allows us to reinforce assay accuracy and reliability not only with standard sample controls, such as the tissue control (TC) to assure specificity, but also with extra system- and sample-suitability controls to further qualify each assay. One such control added last year is the anti-immunoglobulin (anti-Ig). Immunoglobulin is a large protein present in, and specific to, every species. Anti-Ig is an antigen that is species-specific, which means that it will bind to immunoglobulin of the target species. For example, anti-mouse Ig would attach to mouse immunoglobulin present in a sample and trigger a positive reaction. A positive reaction verifies that the serum sample is the correct species and has not been degraded in any way before testing. We are the only commercial laboratory providing this extra level of safeguarding.

Sample error can occur throughout preparation, so it is relatively common. The anti-Ig control narrows the possibility of the following errors: mislabeling of a sample, submission of the wrong species, improper dilution, or submission of serum from a laboratory animal that the MFIA™ platform is not optimized for (e.g., immunocompromised animals). An anti-Ig bead set is part of every MFIA™ assay and will record a “failure” if there is a problem with the sample. A failed anti-Ig control acts as a red flag, alerting our staff that the sample is compromised. We will immediately retest the sample to eliminate laboratory error as the cause of failure. Next, we contact the client and troubleshoot any sample issues.

The combination of extra tissue controls and anti-Ig controls offered with each Charles River MFIA™ assay assures that your results are specific and reliable. For more information on anti-Ig controls, please visit www.criver.com/info/dx. For additional assistance, please contact Technical Services at 1.800.338.9680 or comments@crl.com.

Employee Spotlight:
Bruce Elder, PhD
Dr. Bruce Elder is the Director of Corporate Rodent Genetics at Charles River Laboratories. In his current role, he is responsible for the management and technical activities of Charles River’s Genetic Testing Services division, as well as corporate genetic testing for quality control of rodent production. This rapidly growing division provides a wide variety of molecular genetic services to the research community and Charles River Laboratories rodent production, with a primary focus on genetic analysis of transgenic and knockout animal colonies.

Prior to joining Charles River in 1998, he worked as a Molecular Geneticist at the University of California, San Francisco in the Department of Medicine, studying X-linked genes and their associated diseases. Bruce earned an undergraduate degree in Zoology from the University of Iowa and his PhD in Quantitative Genetics from Wesleyan University. His thesis work involved studying the evolution of thermoregulatory behavior in laboratory and wild populations of Mus. He did his postdoctoral work at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute at UCSF, where he produced transgenic lines for the study of genes involved in sex determination.

Customized PCR Genotyping at Genetic Testing Services
Charles River Laboratories Genetic Testing Services offers a full range of genotyping solutions for rodents and other model organisms such as zebrafish. While determining the genotypes of knockouts and other mutant models lays the groundwork for experiments, performing this routine task may divert personnel and materials away from the most critical steps of your research. Genetic Testing Services can perform this genotyping for you, allowing you to focus more resources on your experiments. We feature completely customizable PCR genotyping to suit...