



FACILITY OVERVIEW

Kuopio, Finland

Our facility in Kuopio, Finland, is a discovery center of excellence located in a global hub of neuroscience research. The site focuses on non-GLP *in vitro* and *in vivo* pharmacology studies. The capabilities at the site include comprehensive small animal imaging, behavioral, cognitive and physiological testing, histology services, and *in vitro* assays.

Background

- Founded as Cerebricon in 2001 as an independent and highly specialized contract research organization focused on neurological diseases
- Acquired by Charles River in 2009

Laboratories and Facilities

- 30,000 square-foot laboratory secured by 24-hour surveillance and environmental monitoring
- Including a surgical suite, imaging core facility, wet lab for biomarker and histological analyses, and behavioral, cognitive, and physiological testing facilities
- 1,615 square feet of animal room space:
 - 2 rat rooms
 - 3 mouse rooms (IVC housing)
 - Special housing options:
 - Lead-shielded room for animals dosed with radioactive substances
 - BSL-2 quarantine room
 - Reverse light cycle studies

Staff

- Approximately 120 full-time employees (with 45% of scientific staff possessing advanced degrees including MSc and PhD)

Service Areas/Study Types

- Imaging capabilities:
 - Dedicated small animal magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) unit with two in-house 7.0T and 11.7T magnets
 - Radiochemistry laboratory for molecular imaging using PET-CT and SPECT-CT, including radiolabeling, whole-body radioimaging, and radioligand binding studies
 - Access to cyclotron to support custom radioligands
 - New capabilities include dynamic PET imaging and arterial input function (AIF)
- *In vitro/ex vivo* assay capabilities:
 - Screening using primary neuron cultures
 - Biomarker analysis using PCR/qPCR, ELISA, EIA, Western blot, autoradiography, and *in situ* hybridization
 - Stem cell processing and viability measurements
 - *Ex vivo* binding assays
 - Immunohistochemistry laboratories with sectioning, staining, imaging, stereological counting, and complete data analysis



EVERY STEP OF THE WAY

Service Areas/Study Types (Continued)

- *In vivo* capabilities for rodents (rat and mouse models):
 - Purpose-built animal holding facilities
 - Surgical laboratories with stereotactic administration
 - Behavioral testing laboratories
 - Electrophysiology capabilities using multi-electrode arrays
 - Advanced cognitive testing laboratories
 - EEG laboratory

Compliance, Certifications, Accreditations, and Professional Affiliations

Charles River's Kuopio facility operates in compliance with the following regulatory agencies and accredited organizations:

- Finnish Medicines Agency (FIMEA)
- National Animal Experiment Board
- Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority (Category B Laboratory)
- Training for functions A, C, and D according to Directive 2010/63/EU, Article 23
- AAALAC (2017)

Humane Care Initiative

Charles River is a worldwide leader in the humane care of laboratory animals. We work hand-in-hand with the scientific community to understand how living conditions, handling procedures, and stress play an important role in the quality and efficiency of research.