

August 5, 2015

Dear TMESCSR user,

I am writing to notify you of changes in the availability of services involving mouse ES cells from the Transgenic Mouse/ESC Shared Resource (TMESCSR).

Effective immediately, the TMESCSR will no longer offer gene targeting, *Recombinase-Mediated Cassette Exchange* (RMCE), BAC recombineering, Southern blot hybridization, and karyotype analysis services on a routine, fee-for-service basis. If you have an ongoing ES cell-based project, we will strive to complete the requested work.

The reasons for this change are multifactorial, but due mostly to the fact that utilization of our ES cell related services has fallen greatly over the past few years. Thus, after meeting with our advisory committee in June to discuss the situation, and an additional conversation with Dr. Larry Marnett, it was agreed that we needed to reduce our service offerings and make several other changes in the operation and organization of this long-standing Shared Resource.

We will continue to offer our current microinjection, re-derivation and cryopreservation services, which everyone agrees are essential to maintain. Jennifer Skelton will remain the principal contact for these services, and they will continue to be available to all VU/VUMC investigators provided they are utilized.

While the termination of our mouse ES cell related services will, undoubtedly, have a negative effect on some investigators, it is essential that this core, which by our estimation has contributed to at least 440 publications by Vanderbilt investigators over the past 20 years, move in some new directions.

Towards this end, I have already begun working with the leadership of the DRTC and VICC, both of which have been devoted supporters of this resource for at least two decades, to advance our abilities to genetically modify the genomes of cells and mice using CRISPR/Cas9.

In addition to these service changes, we hope that several other organizational changes within the TMESCSR will preserve our ability to derive innovative new mouse models at Vanderbilt. These changes will be communicated as they occur via our website at <https://labnodes.vanderbilt.edu/tmescsr>.

Many thanks for your continuing support during these challenging times.

Sincerely,



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