Cryopreservation of Embryos or Sperm

Cryopreservation provides a safe path for preserving the quality and protection of the transgenic line for any potential projected future experiments.

Cryopreservation benefits include: saves cage space, reduces housing and genotyping costs, shipment of lines easily without the need of shipping live animals, reduces risk of contamination, disease, or genetic drift.

Keywords: sperm cryopreservation mouse embryo

Sperm Cryopreservation:

The freezing of mature spermatozoa has become a viable alternative to embryo cryopreservation. Freezing sperm is more cost effective and less labor intensive than freezing embryos. Improved protocols developed by The Jackson Laboratories have enhanced previous methods of sperm cryopreservation and reconstitution. The improved protocols yield a higher percent viability than when cryopreserving sperm in cryovials.

The investigator is responsible for providing a complete description of the mouse line to be cryopreserved (strain, genotype, etc.). Upon completing the appropriate form and online documentation of the mouse line to be cryopreserved, sperm is obtained from the epididymides and vas deferentia of a male transgenic or knock-out mouse and cryopreserved.

Straws of frozen sperm are stored in liquid nitrogen storage tanks. A yearly storage fee applies for each line stored. These tanks are monitored weekly by personnel of the resource, and cannot be accessed by other individuals.

Sperm cryopreservation requires two male mice that are proven breeders from your colony. This cryopreservation service includes the quality control check of thawing one or two straws of sperm and performing a small scale IVF to produce 2-cell stage embryos.

Timeline:

1. PI submits appropriate service form to TMESCSR
2. PI submits mouse line to TMESCSR Cryopreserved Mouse Stocks collection
3. Service forms are reviewed and approved by the Director and Manager of the facility
4. Experiments are scheduled
5. PI submits transfer request through DAC for males to be moved on cryopreservation date to Transgenic Mouse/ES Cell Shared Resource procedure room.
6. Cryopreservation is performed and 26 straws are placed into long term storage
7. A small scale IVF is scheduled
8. One to two straws of sperm is utilized for IVF
9. Confirmation of fertilized embryos at the 2-cell stage
10. PI notified about results of IVF

Embryo Cryopreservation:

Cryopreservation provides a safe path for preserving the quality and protection of the transgenic line for any potential projected future experiments. The investigator is responsible for providing a complete description of the mouse line to be cryopreserved (strain, genotype, etc.) Wildtype (purchased) female mice are superovulated and mated with a minimum of 8 heterozygous or 7 homozygous male stud mice between the ages of 2-6 months that are provided by the investigator. From these matings a minimum of 250 heterozygous or 150 homozygous embryos are harvested and cryopreserved.

Embryos are cryopreserved at the 2-cell to blastocyst stage in straws. There is a higher percent viability cryopreserving in straws versus cryovials. Two cell embryos have a higher survival rate than 8-cells embryos because they are less susceptible to osmotic stress.
Embryos can also be cryopreserved after performing an in vitro fertilization. Fresh or frozen sperm is cultured with wildtype eggs donated from superovulated females. The resulting fertilized embryos can be transferred to produce live pups or can be cryopreserved at the two-cell stage.

Frozen embryos are stored in liquid nitrogen storage tanks. A yearly storage fee applies for each line. These tanks are monitored weekly by personnel of the resource, and cannot be accessed by other individuals.

**Timeline:**

1. PI submits appropriate service form to TMESCSR
2. PI submits mouse line to TMESCSR Cryopreserved Mouse Stocks collection
3. Service forms are reviewed and approved by the Director and Manager of the facility
4. Experiments are scheduled
5. TMESCSR submits transfer requests through DAC for superovulated females to be moved on specified dates to the room where the stud males are located for mating overnight.
6. Cryopreservation is performed and straws are placed into long term storage
7. One to two straws of embryos will be thawed to check embryo viability
8. PI notified about results of viability check

**Attachments**

- **2_cell_embryos.jpg** - Added on June 13, 2017 at 1:56 PM by Jennifer Skelton
  
  Embryos at the 2-cell stage.

- **Biocool.jpg** - Added on June 13, 2017 at 1:56 PM by Jennifer Skelton
  
  Biocool freezer used for embryo cryopreservation.

- **Cassette_Freezer_Box.jpg** - Added on March 17, 2016 at 3:08 PM by Jennifer Skelton
  
  Liquid nitrogen storage box containing cassettes and straws.
Cryopreservation Service Form

Cryopreservation straws