

Information For Donating Investigators (DI)

We commend you and thank you for supporting the international scientific effort to share and archive laboratory mice. We at The Jackson Laboratory hope to work effectively with you, using the guidelines below.

Responsibilities of The Jackson Laboratory (TJL)

Upon acceptance of the DI's strain, we will import the strain and determine whether to maintain it initially as a breeding colony or to cryopreserve it. This determination is based on information from you, the DI, and advice from internal and external scientific advisory committees.

We monitor and use registered interest to manage strains to best meet the needs of the research community. The interest in new strains is captured via telephone inquiries or submission of Web-accessible forms at http://jaxmice.jax.org/list/int_rax.html

We cryopreserve and archive the strain at no cost to the DI, ensuring a resource for current and future research. Cryopreservation of all strains occurs upon arrival on campus where feasible. Cryopreserved stock serves as a back-up and a source for supplying animals should the colony be removed from the shelf due to low demand or as a source for rapid colony expansion using our Assisted Reproductive Technologies Department.

We assign a unique stock number and proper nomenclature to each strain.

We expedite distribution of new strains. Circumstances such as the number of animals we initially receive for the rederivation process, the genotype of the animals and how well they breed in isolators influences the length of time to reach distribution.

We adapt, develop or refine a genotyping protocol and post all working protocols on our public Web site.

We resolve legal issues associated with importation and distribution of the strain. (We strongly encourage DI's to allow the broadest access to the strain.)

We provide a strain datasheet accessible from the JAX® Mice Web site. The datasheet includes: the strain name, stock number, research applications, price and ordering information, strain details (former name, common name, type of mutation, origin, Embryonic Stem cell line, background, donor strain, generation and appearance), strain development, gene details (symbol, name, chromosome, genotype of affected mutant mouse), gene description, strain description, colony maintenance, control information (strains, notes, considerations, price), related strains, references, and links to other web sites (e.g., the Mouse Genome Database, Gene Expression database, and others.)

We keep nomenclature in compliance with the International Nomenclature Committee's guidelines.

We make a best effort to ensure that the worldwide research community is aware of the strain's availability and application through email campaigns and inclusion in JAX® Mice literature.

We provide the DI with a dedicated contact for questions about his/her strain ensuring a prompt response and a concise summary of the current status of the strain.

We provide the DI with periodic updates from acceptance to release for distribution. These include 1) review of the initial phenotype description of a strain, 2) arrival on the TJL campus, 3) completion of the importation process, 3) completion of colony expansion or cryopreservation and available for sale (AVS) date, 4) any major delays in making the strain AVS, 5) decisions made to provide the strain from the Cryopreservation Resource after arrival on campus due to low registered interest or sales volume.

We provide the DI up to three pairs, or six mice, at no charge (shipping costs are to be paid by the DI). Note: for strains accepted for Cryopreservation Only, the DI must decide whether or not he/she wants free mice upon TJL acceptance of the strain. Once the strain is cryopreserved, the DI will be charged a recovery cost. Mice may be shipped to a destination of choice, EXCEPT to third parties for resale.

We send an annual email request asking the DI to review and update the information on the Strain Data Sheet.

Responsibilities of the Donating Investigator

As we invest thousands of dollars in every mouse line we import (cryopreservation, genotyping, background SNP testing, etc), we request that investigators that have submitted mice for inclusion in the repository incur the partial cost of shipping (as far as Boston). We arrange travel from Boston to Maine. Being primarily a grant-operated program and having to import hundreds of mice each year, this policy allows us to maximize the number of mice we are able to offer to the scientific community. If we paid the incoming shipping charges for all of the mice we accepted, it would quickly deplete our grant funds.

The DI provides The Jackson Laboratory with accurate information on the strain submission form.

The DI provides TJL the number and genotype of mice requested for importation in a timely manner.

The DI reviews the initial phenotype description of a strain and returns it to the designated contact.

The DI, as an ally in ensuring the size of the distribution colony is adequate to meet projected demand, encourages investigators seeking mice submitted to the IMR to express their interest in the strain by registering interest online at http://jaxmice.jax.org/list/int_rax.html or calling Customer Service at 800-422-6423 or 207-288-5845

The DI updates the information, including new publications, on his/her strain at the time of the Annual Review of IMR strains or as it is published by submitting it to the dedicated contact. Information on initiatives that could lead to potential increase in demand is also appreciated.

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