Cryopreservation Protocol

We need at least 5 males per transgenic line you will be freezing down. More males will simply help us achieve the desired number of frozen embryos more quickly. Ideally males should be around three to four months of age. We cannot accept males that are older than five months of age. These mice should be proven males. We cannot work with inexperienced males, because they may not breed well. Males should be housed one per cage once you identify which ones will be the donor males. If they are housed with other males this will further delay their breeding. We will be using B6/SJLF1’s as donor females as standard strain but will explore other strains including inbred B6 (C57BL/6). Cost may vary depending on the strain and number of females used.

You will have to assign someone in your lab to help coordinate the transfer of your proven males to our freezing quarantine mouse room (Gautier 618). Please have these males clearly identified so that the Vet Tech can transfer them upon approval from DVR. Be advised that DVR will only approve the transfer of mice that are in a “clean” mouse room. Any recent outbreaks will put a hold on freezing embryos from such rooms. Plan in advance! We cannot help save your transgenic line if your room is already contaminated.

DVR will pull all recent sentinels test results from your room. If there is any doubt, they may require additional or individual testing of your mice before approving your transfer.

You must determine the level of service that you would like to use. Charles River and Jackson Labs recommend freezing ± 400 embryos per line. Please keep in mind the genetics involved and realize that not all frozen embryos will carry the transgene. Are your males 50% carriers, 25% carriers, etc?

Our price includes storage of your frozen embryos for the first three years. After that period we will contact you regarding continuing to store your samples. A small fee for storage will be assessed after that point (currently estimated at $50-$100/yr per line).

As a form of quality control we will thaw & transfer embryos from 1-2 straws for each line/experiment to confirm viability. We could provide you with tail biopsies upon request.