

Dear Investigator,

Thank you for your interest in the Alabama Neuroscience Blueprint Synaptic Physiology core. We are a comprehensive physiology core facility located within the Department of Neurobiology at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. The core provides expertise in the design, implementation and analysis of physiology experiments. This letter is designed to provide information regarding the logistics for potential users of the facility.

The Cellular and Synaptic Physiology Core Facility allows investigators to determine if the basic attributes of synaptic transmission and synaptic plasticity are intact in their animal models. The physiology data acquired can be analyzed for alterations in parameters including baseline synaptic transmission, paired-pulse facilitation, post-tetanic potentiation, and long-term potentiation.

All interest in the utilization of the physiology core should be directed to Dr. Susan Campbell (sue08@uab.edu), the core's technical director. We will discuss issues relating to your interest in utilizing the core and facilitate the scheduling of the experiments. You will be then be directed to Felecia Hester (hester@uab.edu) who will provide information and help with the animal transfer process.

Animals can be transferred to the Core's vivarium in accordance with the Animal Research Protocol at UAB. Animals being shipped to UAB from another institution must go through a 6-8 week quarantine process before any testing can begin. This information should be considered when planning for the shipment of your animals, as the age of animals at testing can be critical. It is preferable that animals are sent to UAB as soon as possible after weaning so that they will be an appropriate age for testing following quarantine (8-12 weeks of age is ideal). Animals that are currently housed at UAB can be sent directly to the core facility.

In order to obtain sufficient data for the initial screening of your animals, you must send *at least* 8 animals of each genotype along with littermate controls. Depending on the results from the initial sample we will discuss the need for additional animals for a complete characterization. Each investigator will be asked to submit one extra mouse from the colony. This animal should be representative of the mice being shipped. Retired breeders are good if available. **The animals and cages should be clearly labeled for proper identification. All experiments will be performed in a 'blind' fashion so that the experimenter is unaware of the test groups.**

Please provide as much information as possible regarding any observable phenotype of your mouse line. For example, it is important to know if your animals display an obvious motor deficit, as this will influence the choice of behavioral paradigm we employ. In addition, simple whole brain anatomical analysis (e.g. H&E) of your mouse line should be performed prior to sending animals to ensure there are no gross anatomical abnormalities.

We appreciate your interest in the Alabama Neuroscience Blueprint Core Facility. Please do not hesitate to contact us for additional information.

Kindest regards,

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