

MRC Harwell IMPC News

Autumn 2014



Welcome to our first MRC Harwell IMPC newsletter!

From the latest lines to our newest projects, techniques and training courses, we'll keep you updated on all we've been doing as part of the IMPC.

You can also keep up to date on the latest phenotypes by visiting the IMPC portal or following us on Twitter. If you would prefer to receive this newsletter by email, please contact impc@har.mrc.ac.uk.

For more information on the IMPC work we do at MRC Harwell, visit our website, www.har.mrc.ac.uk.

Come to our Mouse Network Meeting!

Our next mouse network members' meeting will be held on the **23rd January** in London. Please email d.ashworth@har.mrc.ac.uk if you would like to attend. We hope to see you there!

New IMPC web portal released

The IMPC data coordination centre (DCC) has released a brand new design for the IMPC web portal, www.mousephenotype.org. This cleaner, more intuitive design now allows you to search for mouse lines relevant to a certain disease, including rare genetic disorders, as well as specific areas of the mouse anatomy related to your research interests. Our Bioinformatics of Mouse Mutant Resources workshops give training on how to make the most of this portal and other resources. For more information on our training courses, please contact training@har.mrc.ac.uk.

IMPC commented on in *Nature*

In May, an editorial was published called 'Still much to learn about mice' (*Nature*, 474: 337-342), which described the vital role that the IMPC has to play in providing high-quality knockout mouse lines for the future, in light of newly emerging techniques.

Shipping sperm more efficient

FESA are now shipping frozen sperm on dry-ice to reduce shipping costs and improve animal welfare. Our partners in the EMMA consortium demonstrated that frozen sperm can be maintained at -80°C for up to two years and still maintain its potency, results which are not dependent on the freezing or IVF technique used. The sperm can then be returned to liquid nitrogen for long-term storage. Our Mouse Embryo and Sperm Cryopreservation training course that covers the techniques used in this process (email fesa@har.mrc.ac.uk for details).

Follow us on Twitter!

On Twitter? Why not follow @MRCHarwell? We've launched a new initiative to tweet our latest interesting phenotypes, specially selected by our own phenotyping team at Harwell. Be the first to hear about our newest mouse lines and phenotypes.

New mouse lines available

Our phenotyping team have been hard at work generating new knockout mouse lines and developing and refining our range of phenotyping services. Recent phenotypes include:

Afmid	- Impaired glucose tolerance
Bag3	- Skeletal muscle myopathy
Cbx2	- Embryos are sex reversed, with no adrenal glands
Furin	- Brachydactyly
Gja8	- Retinal abnormalities
Klf7	- Hyperactive in open field test
Slc39a8	- Ventricular septal defect
Bbs5	- Obese, high cholesterol, increased liver enzymes
Cib2	- Deaf
Elmod1	- Deaf, hyperactive (whirling)
Ag1	- Abnormal glucose clearance and opaque lens
Fam63a	- Abnormal hind limbs, gait and hyperactivity
Nptn	- Deaf, hyperactive and low body weight
Otub1	- Weak grip strength
Sirt1	- Defects include the heart, lungs and gonads
Col4a5	- X-linked renal pathology, nephropathy
Emc10	- Unusually aggressive
Fam151B	- Abnormal retinal pigmentation

Discover our full range of knockout mouse lines by searching the IMPC portal (www.mousephenotype.org).