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	<b>Animal Transport to and from PIRC</b> Location: Preclinical Imaging Research Centre, Room 3232	


## 1. Introduction

- 1.1. Robarts Preclinical Imaging Research Centre (“PIRC”), located on the third floor of the Robarts Research Institute, houses specialized Micro-Ultrasound (Micro-US), IVIS Bioluminescence (BLI) and Fluorescence imaging system, and Micro-Computed Tomography (Micro-CT) equipment for high resolution *ex vivo* imaging of biological specimens, and *in vivo* imaging of small animals. This core Robarts Facility was designed for use by Robarts scientists, collaborating investigators and key industry partners.
- 1.2. The PIRC has been designated a Biosafety Containment Level 2<sup>1</sup> (CL2) work area. All employees entering the facility will adopt standard laboratory procedures consistent with CL2 designated areas. All experimental animals entering and exiting the facility will be processed according to the following SOP.
- 1.3. The PIRC is **NOT an approved animal housing facility**. At **NO TIME** are animals to be left in the facility overnight.
- 1.4. All animal use is conducted in accordance with standards approved by the Animal Care Committee of the University of Western Ontario.
- 1.5. Prior to entrance to the PIRC, investigators administering projects involving imaging of live animals must have completed PIRC-Form-300A.02 (New Protocol Hazard Assessment Form- Live Animal), outlining all potential hazards associated with the study. A Facility Manager or the Director must review and sign the risk assessment form and keep a copy on file in the PIRC. A cage ticket will be generated by PIRC staff, and they must accompany experimental animals at all times while in the Institute.

## 2. Transport of Research Animals to and from the Preclinical Imaging Facility

- 2.1. All experimental rodents brought to the PIRC should be contained in appropriate HEPA filtered micro-isolator cages. If additional precautions are appropriate (e.g. severe immune compromised animals) an additional containment bag may be used to cover the micro-isolator cages. The cage wire top should be left in place however the water bottle should be removed to avoid flooding of the cage. Care should be taken to provide proper ventilation and temperature control while the animal is in the transport container.
- 2.2. During transport to and from the Robarts Institute cages must be covered by a surgical drape or other appropriate non-transparent cover to minimize exposure to the public.
- 2.3. At no time during the transportation to and from the Robarts, the animal within the cage should be left unattended.

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- 2.4. All experimental animals for imaging in the PIRC must be brought into the Robarts Institute through the loading docks entrance on the lower floor (LLG) to avoid exposure to public areas and minimize risk of contamination of other research labs.
- 2.5. From the loading dock entrance, all animals are to be transported through the basement to the elevators located in the new building section. This elevator should be the only route for transport of animals entering and exiting the 3rd floor facility.
- 2.6. For animals being used for serial imaging sessions lasting more than one day, animals must be housed in an approved housing facility (e.g. Robarts anti-barrier rooms, or Health Science Animal Care Facility rooms). At no time are animals to be left in the 3rd floor facility overnight.
- 2.7. Sacrificed animals must be disposed of in accordance with Western University policies for animal disposal<sup>2</sup>.
- 2.8. All experimental animals entering and exiting the facility must be logged by one of the facility managers.

### 3. Revision History

Version Number	Date	Changes	Author
SOP#400	June 15, 2011	Initial version	Hemanth Varghese, PhD
PIRC-SOP-400.02	Oct 15, 2024	Renamed SOP#400 as PIRC-SOP-400.02, included references, etc.	Joseph Umoh, PhD

### 4. References

<sup>1</sup> Western University **Biosafety Guidelines and Procedures Manual For Containment Level 1 & 2 Laboratories**, Section 6.2: Containment Level 2—Physical and Operational Requirements. Approved by Biosafety Committee, October 2019. Available from: [https://www.uwo.ca/hr/form\\_doc/health\\_safety/doc/manuals/biosafety\\_manual.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/hr/form_doc/health_safety/doc/manuals/biosafety_manual.pdf)  
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<sup>2</sup> Western University **Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Handbook**. Section 2: Hazardous Waste. Available from: [https://www.uwo.ca/hr/form\\_doc/health\\_safety/doc/manuals/hazardous\\_handbook.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/hr/form_doc/health_safety/doc/manuals/hazardous_handbook.pdf)  
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