Loyola University Chicago
Comparative Medicine Facility

Standard Operating Procedure

SOP Number: **02-18-5811**
Service: **Research**
Operating Section: **IACUC**
Unit: **LUC/HSD**
Title: **Use of Rodents in Neoplasia and Ascites Production**

Purpose:
The following are considered the recommended practices by the IACUC. Deviations from these guidelines require specific justification and approval in the animal protocol prior to occurrence.

Procedure:

1) In vivo experimental neoplasia:

   a) All transplantable tumors must be tested for potential contamination with adventitious murine viruses (MAP test) or equivalent.
   b) Tumor implantation sites must be chosen to minimize damage to normal structures. Sites involving special senses and intramuscular implantation should be avoided. Subcutaneous or intradermal implantation in the flank is considered least painful and is recommended.
   c) Tumors should not exceed 10% of the animal's total body weight, and/or 2.00 cm^3.
   d) Tumors should not be allowed to grow so large that they interfere with the animal's normal physiologic functions.
   e) Animals should be humanely sacrificed before tumors ulcerate.
   f) Death is not an acceptable experimental end point unless clear justification is provided to the IACUC. Experimental end points should be clearly identified in the animal care and use protocol, such as tumors size, time post-implantation, or other well-defined parameters. Simply observing animals for clinical evidence of pain or distress is discouraged and requires justification.
   g) Investigative staff must observe the animals frequently (at least daily) after tumor implantation.

2) Experimental ascites production in rodents:

   a) Principal investigators must justify the use of rodents for the productions of antibodies, using specific references as to why in vitro methods are inappropriate.
   b) Rodents should only be primed once with a maximum of 0.5 ml of an adjuvant (i.e. Pristane; Incomplete Freunds Adjuvant IFA). A preferable volume is 0.1 - 0.2 ml.
   c) After injection or myeloma implantation, investigative staff must observe the animals at least once a day.
   d) Ascitic fluid must be tapped prior to gross abdominal distention or distress. The third ascites collection volume should not exceed 20% of the animal's normal body weight.

e) Death is not an acceptable experimental end point unless clear justification is provided to the IACUC. Experimental end points should be clearly identified in the animal care and use protocol.

f) Rodents should not have ascitic fluid tapped more than three times, with the third tap collected as a terminal procedure. Intervals may not exceed 3 days between taps.

Comments:
None.

Responsible Official Signature			**Date**
QA Signature			**Date**
Version	**Effective Date**	**Supersedes**	**Original Date**
#2		#1	03/21/02