

Regional Biocontainment Laboratory (RBL)



A University of Tennessee Health Science Center Institutional Core

The mission of the RBL is to provide facilities and expertise in support of basic research in pathogen biology and translational research that advances discoveries of treatments and vaccines for the infectious diseases impacting global health.

Facility Description

In addition to common public health threats in infectious disease, the **Regional Biocontainment Laboratory (RBL)** is certified for select agent use through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and received AAALAC accreditation. The facility houses six ABSL-3 suites, eight BSL-3 laboratories, and one large BSL-2 laboratory with a cell culture suite. The RBL provides high containment laboratory space as well as specialized equipment and technical services to support campus research needs for in-vitro and in-vivo projects.

Core Capabilities

Broadly, the scope of our Animal Services include: (1) production and characterization of the pathogens for challenge; (2) determination of optimal route and dose for pathogen challenge; (3) natural history of infection in small animal models; (4) determination of the best indicators of infection and correlates of immunity; (5) development and standardization of non-GLP Animal Models for use in "Proof-of-Concept" Efficacy Studies of Candidate Vaccines, Therapeutics and Immunotherapeutic Agents in support of PreIND activities.

Regardless of the organism, the RBL offers state-of-the-art essential laboratory equipment in support of assay development, small molecule or siRNA screening, and evaluation of small molecules and vaccines in small animal models. Moreover, the facility provides services in support of pathogen and biomarker discovery.

BSL3 Equipment

- FACS Aria II
- MAGPIX®
- JANUS robotic/fluids ENVISION
- Envision
- QuantStudio 6

BSL2 Equipment

- MAGPIX®
- JANUS robotic/fluids
- Envision
- Synergy II
- Luminex 200
- Multiflo FX

Services and Trainings

- Equipment Training
- Training for Work with Select Agents
- Biosafety Cabinet (BSC) Certification and Repairs

Animal Research Equipment

- IVIS Spectrum
- Bio-aerosol Nebulizing Generator (BANG)

UTHSC Research Cores and Shared Resources

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