update

Charles River Laboratories

Winter 2003

Introduction

Last year, James C. Foster, CRL Chairman and CEO, was named "Entrepreneur of the Year" by Forbes magazine. While honored by the individual recognition, Mr. Foster acknowledged that the company's success is the result of the hard work and dedication of employees at every level in the organization. "Our success as an entrepreneurial organization results from the energy and enthusiasm that employees bring to their work everyday when they understand what we do makes a real difference in the lives of others."

Business Strategies

Acquisition of Springborn Laboratories, Inc.

Charles River was pleased to welcome Springborn Laboratories to its Discovery and Development Services (DDS) portfolio. Springborn's 25 year history of sound science and regulatory compliance has distinguished it as a world leader in the field of nonclinical toxicology services. Operating two AAALAC-accredited research facilities in Spencerville, Ohio, Springborn has focused on four primary areas of research: Acute Toxicology, Subchronic Toxicology, Developmental and Reproductive Toxicology and Chronic Toxicology/ Carcinogenicity studies. The company's staff of over 130 individuals has the training and experience necessary to perform GLP-compliant mammalian toxicology studies meeting various international regulatory guidelines.

Charles River Launches In Vitro ADMET Services

Our Discovery and Development Services segment in Worcester has launched an automated *in vitro* ADMET assay service to support drug discovery programs in both small and large organizations. The enzyme and cell-based assays are designed to mimic absorption, metabolism and toxicity in animals or humans to help researchers predict and prioritize high quality successful compounds. The first services available include cytochrome P450 inhibition and metabolic (microsomal) stability assays. The cytochrome P450 assays use fluorescent substrates to determine % inhibition and IC_{50}. The microsomal stability assay determines % parent compound remaining using LC/MS detection. These assays are automated with the use of liquid-handling robots and fluorescent detectors reading 96- or 384-well microtiter plates to ensure fast turnaround high-throughput screening for early drug discovery needs.

The ability to make key decisions earlier in the drug discovery and development process results in a more cost-effective and productive R&D operation. For more information on these as well as future *in vitro* ADMET offerings, such as metabolite identification and aqueous solubility determination, please call 1-877-CRIVER-1.

⇒

CHARLES RIVER
LABORATORIES

Home Improvement

Validation of DSI Telemetry System

Last year, our Worcester facility established a team to focus specifically on validation of scientific data acquisition systems. Such systems allow for the capturing of data electronically, leading to streamlined data reporting capabilities and the ability to give clients data electronically.

We are pleased to announce that our Discovery and Development Services segment has now completed validation of its DSI Telemetry System. This system supports our Cardiovascular Pharmacology, Surgery and Toxicology businesses.

Spotlight On Our Redfield Facility

Charles River Laboratories is generating value at its Redfield facility. Significant investments in Redfield include the addition of a 17,000 square foot, eight room, purpose-built large animal facility, a state-of-the-art chiller and back-up system, and replacement of existing automated data acquisition systems with Provantis, currently being validated. All in-life, clinical pathology and anatomical pathology data soon will be collected and tabulated by this unified system.

Redfield's premier status was evident when a FDA Audit Team completed a two-week inspection of the facilities, computer support system and data from two studies without issuing a FDA 483. Thus, the FDA team concluded that Redfield had appropriate systems and processes in place or under development, as well as the training, expertise and management/ corporate support required to meet FDA's expectations for GLP compliance.

We invite you to visit Redfield. You can reap large dividends including a quality staff, facility and final product, as well as a scientifically sound, accurate, on-time final report. For more information, please contact 1-877-CRIVER-1.

DDS Launches New Customer Feedback Process

All of the research facilities that comprise the Charles River Discovery and Development Services (DDS) network launched a new customer feedback process at the beginning of the year. Developed at a recent DDS senior management leadership conference, the new process is designed to increase the level of customer feedback by providing additional communication channels to the DDS organization. All customer feedback data will be reviewed routinely by DDS senior and site management. To underscore the commitment to customer satisfaction, summaries of customer feedback data will be reviewed on a quarterly basis by Jim Foster, President and CEO of Charles River Laboratories.

One of our core company values at Charles River Laboratories states, "Always give customers more than they expect." The implementation of the customer feedback process was established as a top priority since customer satisfaction is believed to be the ultimate measure of organizational effectiveness.

Serology Department Facility Expanded in Wilmington

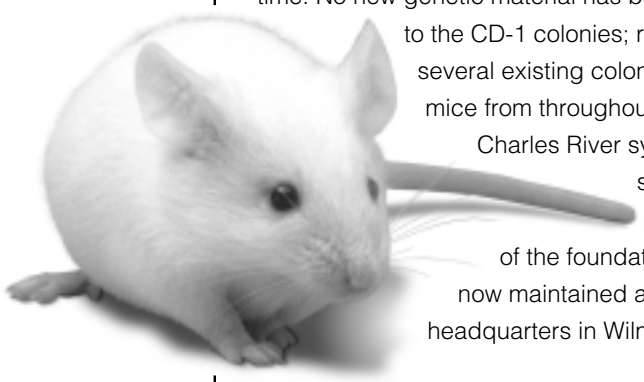
The Serology Department at Charles River's Wilmington site has completed its transition into a larger laboratory facility. The new, 11,000 square foot facility more than doubles the previous laboratory and administrative support space for the serology testing as well as antigen preparation and QC groups. This expansion provided the necessary space for installing additional equipment, including two robotic workstations plus additional incubators and freezers, as well as for increasing technical staff. As a result, the department will be able to better organize the flow of work through the facility from sample receipt to testing and report generation. Furthermore, it opens up space in other buildings for expansions of the Bacteriology and Molecular Diagnostic laboratories.

Our Wilmington facility houses the world's foremost rodent diagnostic laboratory, performing more than 2,000,000 serologic determinations annually. Laboratory automation, computerized information management and an experienced staff assure rapid, accurate and reliable processing of samples. With the recent expansion, our Serology Department will continue to deliver the quality products and services customers have come to expect from an industry leader.

Application of the IGS Management System to CD-1® Mice: Initiation of Forward and Backward Migration

In the 1990's, Charles River launched a comprehensive restructuring of its breeding programs for outbred stocks, the International Genetic Standard or IGS, starting with the CD® rat. This program culminated in the repopulation of all worldwide production colonies of CD rats with a genetically harmonized stock of animals designated CRL:CD® (SD)IGS BR. During the development and initiation of this new outbred genetic management system, we promised customers that a similar system of outbred management that provided global standardization of rodents would be applied to our CD-1® mouse colonies. The necessary components for this standardization are now in place and the first forward migrations of animals to maintain the standardization process began at the end of 2002.

Adoption of the IGS management program for CD-1 mice is not a change in the overall genetics of these animals. The implementation of this system decreases the amount of genetic drift between production colonies at different geographic locations that naturally occurs over time. No new genetic material has been added to the CD-1 colonies; rather, several existing colonies of CD-1 mice from throughout the Charles River system were selected as progenitors of the foundation colony now maintained at corporate headquarters in Wilmington.



The following process was used to establish the IGS CD-1 foundation colony:

- The foundation colony of CD-1 mice was cesarean derived from stock, taken in equal numbers, from several of the longest standing colonies in the Charles River system.
- One pup per litter was taken from 200 separate cesarean sections to ensure heterogeneity in the founding breed stock.
- The rederived foundation animals were set up as breeding pairs in four semi-rigid isolators to ensure microbiological integrity.
- Progeny are maintained in the same isolators as future breed and stock animals.
- A circular paired mating system linking all four isolators is used to set up replacement breeding pairs. Migrations between isolators are limited and timed to coincide with health monitoring of the isolators following migration.
- The forward migration system used is similar to the one for CD rats. It involves migrating sufficient animals from the foundation colony to replace 25 percent of the male breeding population in existing barrier rooms. This will be done once every three years.
- The backward migration portion of the IGS system consists of replacing 5 percent of the foundation colony on a 5-year basis with rederived animals from existing production colonies.

Infusions of new breed stock allow a gradual introduction of foundation colony animals into the ongoing production, and hence, no sudden shift in the frequency of phenotypes should occur. There will be no change in the nomenclature used to refer to CD-1 mice.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this process, please contact Technical Assistance at 1-800-338-9680.

Confirmation of Rodent Orders Now Available by Fax and Email

Previously, our Customer Service Department only offered rodent customers the option of receiving order confirmation by fax, which allows them to have a "hard copy" and ensure that their order has been placed correctly. Now, we give these customers the ability to receive confirmation in an email if they prefer. To receive an email order confirmation, a customer must have an email address, a PC capable of receiving email, as well as an Adobe PDF reader (which can be downloaded free at www.adobe.com). Customers who would like to continue to receive a fax may do so.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact Customer Service at 1-800-LAB-RATS.

⇒

UPDATE
is a publication of
Charles River
Laboratories
251 Ballardvale St.
Wilmington, MA
01887
1.877.CRIVER.1

www.criver.com

E-mail:
comments@criver.com

Inquiries may be
addressed to
Jonathan Macdonald,
Editor

Higher Education

2003 Short Course Registration Information Available

For the past 16 years, Charles River has been conducting its annual Short Course on Laboratory Animal Care and Use. With each passing year, we look at new ways to further improve upon this already extensive program designed to educate and update the biomedical research community on current trends and technological advances. For 2003, we are pleased to announce that notable enhancements have been made once again. For example, the "Exploring Behavior and Enrichment in Laboratory Animals" breakout session has been extended from 1 to 1 ½ days. Furthermore, for your convenience course material will be available on CD-ROM. This year also marks the first time in which on-line registration is available. For those that register on-line before May 23rd, $100 will be deducted from the standard course fee (commercial fee is $1345 and non-profit fee is $1095).

Two full day workshops, "Rodent Production" and "Humane Animal Care - What is it and how do we achieve it?", are offered on Friday, June 20th. These workshops require an additional registration fee (commercial fee - $300; non-profit - $250).

This year's Short Course will be held June 16-19, 2003 at the Sheraton Ferncroft Resort in Danvers, MA. For more information about both the Short Course and workshops, including preliminary agenda, speaker abstracts, and registration form, please visit the Events section of our website, www.criver.com.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Lisa Antolick: lantolick@criver.com.

CHARLES RIVER
LABORATORIES
251 Ballardvale Street • Wilmington, MA 01887

FIRST CLASS MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
WILMINGTON, MA
PERMIT NO. 571