

**South Texas Research Facility
NEWSLETTER
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**News and Information for
Investigators and Staff Relocating
to STRF**

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Relocation Planning Progress

On July 13th a relocation planning progress update and information team meeting was held with relocation consultant Coats Group. At this meeting a representative portion of the detailed 65-page Microsoft Project relocation schedule was explained and discussed. Coats Group conducted additional meetings on July 13th to coordinate rig relocation issues with Neuroscience investigators, and other matters with support groups and PIs.

Based on these and other recent meetings a number of revisions will be made to the approved relocation strategy/schedule and a new version will be released shortly.

This past month our focus has been on major floor-mounted equipment, freezers, refrigerators, CO₂ incubators, and centrifuges. Sean Wilson has worked with PIs and lab managers to prepare an inventory of all floor-mounted and other major research equipment to be relocated. The inventory includes electrical and central monitoring requirements. Liquid nitrogen storage dewars and compressed gas cylinders were also

inventoried. This inventory will inform the construction team which electrical receptacles at STRF need to be changed to accommodate the equipment. (All STRF receptacles for ultra low temperature freezers were prewired for 208 Volts: if a freezer requires 110 Volts the receptacle and wiring will be changed prior to move in). During the next few weeks a label will be affixed to every item of major floor-mounted equipment giving its description, destination room number, and, if applicable, the circuit number and central monitoring point. Corresponding labels will be placed in STRF at the destination position.

Investigators requiring central monitoring of freezers and refrigerators need to provide Sean Wilson with two contact names and telephone numbers for primary and secondary call out.

Relocation Issues

Compressed Gas Cylinders

No compressed gas cylinders may remain in labs during the lab packing and move process. A minimum of one (1) business day before the scheduled pack up and relocation of chemicals in each group of labs (per the Primary Move schedule) lab personnel must discontinue compressed gas use, close cylinder valves, remove regulators, install protective caps, mark cylinders as partly used or full, and call Materials Management (567-5998) to remove the cylinders and return them to Praxair. Materials Management will remove cylinders the same day or the next day, and have them stored for pick up by Praxair. No credit will be given for partly used cylinders.

In advance of the lab moves STRF Administration will order sufficient full cylinders of carbon dioxide to provide a start-up supply for each occupied tissue culture lab at the STRF. Two (2) full cylinders will be moved into each tissue culture lab before it is occupied. Thereafter lab personnel will be responsible for ordering additional cylinders to meet their needs using established purchasing procedures. Returned empty start-up cylinders will be credited to the STRF Administration account with Praxair.

The move schedules will be distributed to all involved parties well in advance of the moves.

Research Equipment Ordered

Purchase order requisitions were submitted this month for about \$2 million of research equipment covering the STRF research cores and other needs of relocating research groups. Equipment being purchased includes a Nikon swept field confocal microscope, a Nikon N-STORM microscope, a Prairie Technologies Ultima microscope, a Q-exactive HPLC mass spectrometer, and a MoFlo Astrios two-laser flow cytometer.

Construction Progress

In the first floor lobby area wood paneling is being installed and final painting completed. A number of hoods were removed from tissue culture rooms in the Neuroscience area to make room for research rigs. On the second floor at grids 1-6 final punch is scheduled this month. At grids 12-20 final painting, carpet installation and cleaning is under way with final punch scheduled this month.

At grids 20-22 final painting, corridor VCT, and carpet installation continue with final punch scheduled this month. At grids 22-28 air balance, final painting, ceiling tile and cleaning is under way. At grids 28-33 ceiling devices and ceiling tile is being installed. The second floor central corridor is undergoing final painting and clean up. The third floor is complete except for furniture installation. Outside, paving, irrigation, and landscaping continue. Turf has been installed and trees and shrubs are being planted. Construction of sidewalks and of parking lot 19A is under way. There are 145 workers on site. Building equipment training is taking place every Wednesday.

STRF Building Operations

Liquid Nitrogen and Dry Ice.

Unfortunately we will not be able to install the automated self-serve systems for liquid nitrogen and dry ice described in Newsletter No. 10. A retrospective survey of liquid nitrogen and dry ice use by relocating investigators showed insufficient use to justify the high initial cost. Instead, lab managers will need to order nitrogen VGLs from the gas vendor, and place them in a convenient lab where individual dewars can be filled. Dry ice can be ordered from Central Stores.

Revised Description of CO₂ System in Tissue Culture Labs.

Following training with the system vendor we have revised our previous description of the system (Newsletter No. 10) and have initiated a project to make plumbing revisions.

Inside the door on the hood side of each tissue culture room there is a cylinder rack for two (2) CO₂ cylinders. Mounted on the wall above this is the BeaconMedaes CO₂ regulator and monitoring system. Two braided pigtails connect directly to the gas cylinders. The connection provided is female CGA 320 0.825"-14 NGO-RH-EXT. When connected to two full CO₂ cylinders, this system will monitor use from the first cylinder and automatically switch to the second cylinder when the first is empty. Notifications will be sent to designated lab occupants as arranged. A pressure regulator is built into the unit. Low pressure CO₂ at 55 psig is piped in ½ inch copper pipe from the regulator/monitoring system to the hoods on one wall and to a distribution point on the opposite wall for the incubators.

The distribution point is high up and in the center of the wall opposite the hoods. A project is in progress to replace the current terminal fitting with a union and a permanent CO₂ regulator to drop the pressure from 55 psig to the working pressure of 15 psig. Lab personnel will need to provide fittings and Tygon tubing to hook up their incubators and are advised to have a stock of such items on hand before the move.

Lab Animal Resources

Investigators are reminded to contact Dr. Hacker well in advance of the move to make arrangements to relocate animals.

STRF Web Pages

The web pages enable us to post large files that would be difficult to

distribute by email. Please check from time to time for updated information: <http://research.uthscsa.edu/STRF/index.shtml>

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