

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

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If you wish to remove your name from the STRF Newsletter mailing list or add additional persons please contact me.

Status of the Relocation Process

During October I met with all the STRF program leaders to initiate or continue the process of data collection. The first step is for each program leader to identify all the people in the program who intend to relocate to STRF. Each leader was also provided with a detailed schedule of space assigned to the program, and asked to assign each person specific STRF desk and laboratory space. Next, we will contact each person so identified to collect detailed information on their current laboratories and offices to plan the move.

As of this writing complete personnel schedules have been received for the IIMS and Neuroscience programs. Thank you Bob Clark and Linda Knieriem and David Weiss and Walter Mejia.

Program leaders who have not already submitted their personnel schedules are requested to do so as soon as possible.

During this process many questions were asked and answered concerning details of the STRF building, institutional support available, laboratory animal facilities, and related concerns.

On October 20, Mr. Black and I had an opportunity to provide to Dr. Gonzalez-Scarano and the medical school leadership with a summary of STRF activities and planning, and to answer questions. Included was a discussion of the plan for administration of the STRF building which had been distributed to attendees. This document is now posted on our web pages. Since some members of the graduate school leadership were unable to attend the meeting, Dr. Herman and I will meet separately with them this month.

Construction Progress

You may have noticed that during the weekend of October 9/10 the last crane was dismantled. There are about 300 workers on site. Outside, metal wall panels are being installed. Inside the structure, work is proceeding on ceilings and walls and setting cabinets and hoods.

Information Technology Infrastructure

All faculty in the STRF will have 1 GB network access at their desktops. Wireless access will be provided throughout the building. We are hoping to receive funding from the UT System to bring a 10 GB connection to the STRF, which would enable a 10 GB connection to a few selected PIs needing it for their research. The telephone system for the building is still under discussion. Videoconferencing capability will be provided that is compatible with existing Health Science Center installations.

Progress on STRF Room Numbers

During October, the room-numbering scheme was finalized to include the basement vivarium spaces. This greatly facilitates the relocation planning process. A new conversion table for old and new STRF room numbers has been posted on our web pages.

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>

Frequently Asked Questions

(All FAQs and answers will be archived on our web pages.)

Q. I do not need as many biological safety cabinets as will be installed in the tissue culture rooms allocated to my program. Can some of these cabinets not be installed making the rooms available for program-specific equipment?

A. Unfortunately, no. The time for such customization has long past. The cabinets have been purchased and will be installed this month.

Q. Who will pay for the move to STRF.

A. The move will be paid for by the institution.

Q. I do not understand the Research Space Productivity Index (RSPI) calculation using the published factor of 0.168 linear feet = \$1/square foot for bench space.

A. Application of the RSPI to the STRF has resulted in a significant amount of confusion.

The large open laboratories in the STRF—which will be occupied by multiple investigators, occasionally in different programs—each contain 12 single-sided benches 21 feet long, except when the laboratory abuts the east or west end of the building in which case it contains 13 single-sided benches.

In these labs it is convenient to assign lab space by numbers of single-sided benches. Each single-sided bench is equivalent in floor space to the size of the open laboratory divided by 12 (or 13). The large open labs are about 1,600 square feet each. Dividing 1,600 by 12 we get or about 133 square feet as equivalent to one single-sided bench 21 feet long. We can go further and divide 133 by 21 to get about 6.35 square feet as equivalent to one linear foot of bench space.

The RSPI at the STRF is \$500 per square foot, which is the same across the Health Science Center. The RSPI calculation is based on a three-year rolling average of direct (D) plus indirect (I) costs in dollars:

$$\text{Lab space in square feet} = (D + I)/500.$$

Please refer to HOP 7.8.1 “Research Space Allocation Policy” for more details.

All STRF laboratory and office space assigned to an investigator is included in the calculation. Assignment to an investigator of a certain number of benches does not result in a certain amount of support labs (such as tissue culture rooms) being “thrown in.” Assignment of space within a program is the responsibility of the program leader. Shared spaces, such as conference rooms, break rooms, and public spaces, are not included in the RSPI calculation.

Example. An investigator is assigned the following space in the STRF:

Two open lab bench bays (4 single-sided benches each 21 feet long)= 552 sq. ft.

One linear equipment room=200 sq. ft.

One fume hood and sink alcove=102 sq. ft.

Two tissue culture rooms=404 sq. ft.

Two cubicles in open office=270 sq. ft.

One faculty office=149 sq. ft.

The total assigned space is 1,677 sq. ft. Multiplying this by the RSPI of \$500, we find that this investigator will need a target, three-year rolling average of \$838,500 of D + I grant support annually.

Q. Some investigators affiliated with my program have not yet positively decided to relocate to STRF. Their decision may impact the decisions of others. How should I proceed with relocation planning?

A. Relocation planning must proceed on the assumption that all investigators and their research groups slated for relocation will in fact relocate. Therefore planning data will be collected on this basis. On a date to be decided, individuals and/or program groups unable to make an affirmative decision will be notified that STRF space reserved for them will be made available to other programs seeking space at the STRF.

How to Contact Me

The best way to contact me is by email. If you have trouble please ask assistance from Gail Billbe, 567-2015.

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