

LABORATORY ANIMAL CARE UNIT (LACU)



The Laboratory Animal Care Unit (LACU) serves all UTHSC animal related research in Memphis, TN, operating several facilities throughout the campus. Our primary focus is to provide high-quality care and housing of study animals. Our program and facilities are accredited by the Association for the Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care (AAALAC). In addition to expertise in animal care and procedures, we offer training to the UTHSC research community. Our veterinary team has created ~40 standard operating procedures and guidelines outlining veterinary standards for many common procedures. These valuable reference documents can also be incorporated when creating IACUC protocols.

SERVICES

Animal Husbandry: Housing, health status, and day-to-day care of research animals. Will assist in special housing and diet/water needs of specific research projects.

Study Procedural Space: All facilities have contained procedure rooms within the vivariums for quick access to your animals and reduced stress from transport.

Technical Services: Project support, collaboration, and fee for service work includes: ear tagging and notching; blood collection; tail vein injections; breeding colony management; anesthesia; surgery; and post-operative care.

Animal Ordering: Obtain animals from approved vendors (e.g., JAX, Charles River, Invotiv), organize domestic and international shipments of rodents between research institutions.

Animal Imaging: Rodent ultrasound (Vevo 2100), digital radiography.

Study Support: IACUC protocol pre-review, study design consultation and troubleshooting, drug dosing, and species-specific training opportunities.

TRAINING

Didactic and hands-on training: available for rodent handling, basic rodent procedures and aseptic surgical technique. Classes are offered 4 times/month in the Coleman animal facility; registration is required.

One-on-one training for specific techniques or surgery: available upon request.

EQUIPMENT AND SOFTWARE

- Vevo 2100 - VisualSonics
- CODA Tail-Cuff Blood Pressure System - Kent Scientific Inc.
- IDEXX BioResearch - Animal health monitoring, histopathology, blood chemistry analysis
- ACAP - Bar-coded card printing and colony management system
- ACIM - Billing, VetCare application systems
- Anprolene - Ethylene oxide sterilization
- Animal Imaging - Digital radiography, Perkin Elmer XMRS (CRB), Xenogen Spectrum (RBL)
- Abaxis VetScanHm5 - Five-part differential hematology analyzer (housed in Rm 269 CRB)

STAFF

Our unit is supported by two clinical veterinarians, one veterinary resident, two veterinary technicians, three supervisors and over 40 additional staff members. Administrative staff provide billing and core unit support. We are available for training, fee-for-service work and collaborations.



**David Hamilton, DVM, DACLAM
Core Director**

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Dr. David Hamilton is the director and attending veterinarian of the LACU. He is professor and chair of the Department of Comparative

Medicine and is the director of the UTHSC residency program in laboratory animal medicine. Dr. Hamilton obtained his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from the Atlantic Veterinary College, University of Prince Edward Island, Canada and subsequently worked in companion animal practice before completing a laboratory animal medicine residency at UTHSC. He became a diplomat of the American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine in 2009. Dr. Hamilton's current position combines administrative duties, regulatory input and oversight, clinical medicine and research.



**Tyler Aycock, DVM
Veterinarian**

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Dr. Tyler Aycock is a clinical veterinarian and an assistant professor in the Department of Comparative Medicine. Dr. Aycock

obtained his Doctor of Veterinary medicine degree from North Carolina State University and subsequently worked in companion animal practice before joining Wake Forest Primate Center as a staff veterinarian. Dr. Aycock joined UTHSC in 2017 and provides primary oversight for the east side of campus.



**Brianne Hibl, DVM, DACLAM
Veterinarian**

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Dr. Brianne Hibl is a clinical veterinarian and an assistant professor in the Department of Comparative Medicine. Dr. Hibl

obtained her Doctor of Veterinary medicine degree from the Atlantic Veterinary College in Prince Edward Island, Canada and subsequently completed a laboratory animal medicine residency at Baylor College of Medicine, Houston Texas. Dr. Hibl joined UTHSC in 2018 and provides primary oversight for the west side of campus. In 2023, she became a diplomat of the American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine.

For more information:

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uthsc.edu/research/institutional-cores/lacu/