

Experimental Animal Division

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Summary

1. Achievements during the last three years (FY 2006 to FY 2008)—banking, research and development, international collaboration, public relations, training and education, and others

● **Evaluation**

Achievements exceed expectations

Specific Comments:

None

● **Advice and suggestions**

- It is important to further enhance the BRC “brand.”
- Sustainability of operation is important. It is necessary to provide figures showing actual BRC usage, such as number of research papers using BRC mice, and the like for the proper evaluation of the achievement.
- It is likely to become a major topic of concern for this Division to get rid of the numerical goals for the operation in the near future.
- If BRC is to exceed the level of the Jackson Laboratory in the USA, there must be a review of what will be important hereafter.
- The fostering of human resources takes time, and the Division must always pay attention on this issue.
- The Division must pay attention to the career path and the future of the technical staff. We would like to hear some explanation of how BRC intends to keep their motivation uplifted.
- “Winning out in international competition” does not seem an appropriate phrase for a bioresource operation. Terms that distinguish bioresource work from research should be used.

2. Responses to issues raised in the Resource Committee meetings of the past three years (FY 2005 to FY 2007)

- **Evaluation**

There has been a serious effort to respond to the comments, and BRC's operations have expanded as a result.

Specific Comments:

None

- **Advice and suggestions**

- Standards need to be clarified for the handling and collection of wild inbred lines.
- It should be made clear what it is that makes BRC different from the Jackson Laboratory.
- A concrete explanation is required of BRC's connection with the Japan Mouse Clinic and how it intends to make use of the Japan Mouse Clinic in managing the quality of mouse strains.
- There should be a follow-up on the first phase of deposits from NBRP sub facilities.
- Appealing data such as the survival rate of frozen standard inbred strains should be posted on the BRC website to publicize BRC's high level of technology.
- The connection with other Divisions and Teams should be clarified.

3. Are there any bioresources that are needed urgently within the next two to three years

- **Advice and suggestions**

- Mouse lines that enable the visualization of cell organelles should be collected.
- Varieties of complex models such as double transgenic mice should be collected.
- Useful models for wide range of research applications should be developed.
- KO mice with NOD/SCID background will become more important.
- Collection of Cre-zoo and development of their expression database should be promoted. But it should be kept in mind that the analysis of cre-driver mice is extremely complex.
- Humanized mice in which endogenous mouse genes are replaced by corresponding human genes.
- A system is required that will immediately respond to and implement requests from the research community.
- It is suggested that the developmental program may focus on a specific subject, such as brain, cancer, immunity and others.

4. Others

- **Advice and suggestions**

- Stability and sustainability are important for BRC and every effort including actions on

relevant government offices should be made to this end.

- There are issues that BRC cannot resolve on its own, but for stable operations there must be policy of retaining the necessary personnel. Effort should be made to secure the required funds for personnel.
- There is a need to shift emphasis from quantity to quality. Specific examples should be given of how this is being done. Also, there should be a system for quality control that includes users' demand.
- Securing resources and developing the necessary technology are both important to bioresource management and the BRC should continue to stress this point.
- A roadmap indicating the pathway from infrastructure to development for the whole of BRC is desirable.
- Specific examples should be given of project proposals which currently lack sufficient funds for implementation to manage for the future.
- A system for evaluating technical staff should be considered.
- "Users" should be also those who make use of BRC resources, not only those who deposit resources.