NONHUMAN PRIMATES

Nonhuman primates are a diverse group of animals. The TNPRC maintains nine species of nonhuman primates for a variety of scientific and historical reasons, and of these, the rhesus macaque of Indian origin is the most widely used. The other eight nonhuman primate species at the TNPRC are: baboons, cynomolgus macaques, African green monkeys, sooty and white-crowned mangabeys, patas monkeys, pigtailed macaques, and squirrel monkeys.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

The presence of the TNPRC has a significant impact on the local economy. The Center has:

- a staff of 260 employees, a 60% increase since 2001
- a $9.03 million annual payroll
- a total economic impact estimated at $70.1 million a year

PUBLIC EDUCATION

Speakers – Faculty and staff members at the TNPRC have many areas of individual expertise relating to the general field of biomedical research.

Group Tours – Organized tours of the TNPRC are conducted at specific times on predetermined days during the months of April, May, June, September, October and November.

For specific information about speakers and tours, please visit our web site.

CONTACT

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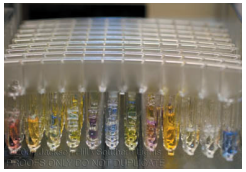
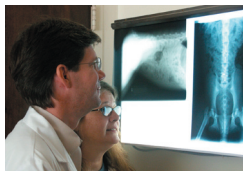


TULANE NATIONAL PRIMATE RESEARCH CENTER

Making our world
a better place
through research

Tulane University

18703 Three Rivers Road, Covington, LA 70433


HISTORY

Established in November, 1964, as the Delta Regional Primate Research Center, the Tulane National Primate Research Center (TNPRC) has a long, distinguished history of infectious disease research. A unit of Tulane University's Health Sciences Center, the TNPRC is one of eight national primate research centers (NPRC). It is the only NPRC to be awarded a multimillion dollar grant to build a Regional Biosafety Laboratory. This laboratory will allow scientists to continue their research toward developing treatments, diagnostics, and vaccines for emerging infectious diseases.

OUR MISSION

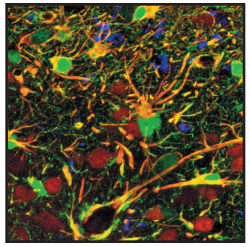
The Tulane National Primate Research Center has a national mission to improve human and animal health through basic and applied biomedical research. To accomplish this mission, the TNPRC:

- Conducts basic and applied biomedical research on human health problems by using nonhuman primate models.
- Investigates nonhuman primate biology and diseases with particular regard to the study of human health problems.
- Serves as a regional and national resource and center of excellence for biomedical research using nonhuman primates.
- Provides training for graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, veterinarians, undergraduates, veterinary students and visiting scientists.
- Educates the general public about the critical link between basic research with animal models and improvements in human health.

ANIMAL RESEARCH IN MEDICINE

Animal Research Helps People and Animals

Virtually everyone alive today has benefited from the medical advances made possible through animal research. Polio, smallpox, diphtheria, cholera and measles are no longer major threats to public health in the United States. Sophisticated diagnostic tests mean early treatment of cancer and heart disease. Advances in pharmaceuticals have given a new lease on life to tens of thousands of people with AIDS. New surgical techniques have opened the way for coronary bypasses, joint replacements and organ transplants. All of these advances have been made possible through animal research in medicine.



Biomedical research has enhanced the lives of our animal companions, too. Pets, livestock, wildlife and animals in zoos live longer, more comfortable and healthier lives as a result of animal research. Veterinarians can now treat diseases that once killed millions of animals every year. Vaccines for feline leukemia virus, rabies, distemper and parvovirus, as well as treatments for heart worm, cancer and hip dysplasia are now available because of animal research. Animal research has also been integral to the preservation of many endangered species.

Animal Research is Necessary

While scientists have developed many valuable non-animal models that are useful in some types of medical research and can supplement work with live animals, these methods cannot mirror the complicated processes that occur in a living system. Development of any new medicine requires testing in animals to determine if it is safe and effective. Federal law mandates that tests be conducted in animals before approval can be given for clinical trials involving people.

Animal Research is Humane

Responsible scientists know that good science and good animal care go hand-in-hand and would not tolerate cruel or inhumane treatment of any laboratory animals.

The U.S. Animal Welfare Act (AWA) sets strict standards of care and research for laboratory animals. Research facilities are registered with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) which has responsibility for enforcing the mandates of the AWA. Stringent regulations on animal care are also in place for institutions receiving federal funds. Each research facility is also required to have an Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, which includes at least one outside member as well as a veterinarian. The committee scrutinizes research proposals to ensure that alternatives to animal use are considered and that all animals involved receive humane care. The vast majority of research institutions in the United States, including the TNPRC, voluntarily seek accreditation from the Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care International (AAALAC) in addition to complying with local, state and federal laws that regulate animal research.

Adapted from www.amprogress.org

DISEASES WE INVESTIGATE

Research at the TNPRC is focused on human health problems that require the use of nonhuman primates to understand disease. This forms the basis of efforts to develop diagnostics, therapeutics and preventive strategies such as vaccines. The main diseases we study are:

AIDS and HIV Infection
Human T Cell Leukemia Virus I
Krabbe's Disease
Lyme Disease
Malaria
Microsporidiosis
Rotavirus
Tuberculosis
Varicella Zoster Virus
West Nile Virus

ANIMAL RESOURCE PROGRAM

The TNPRC animal resources program supports nonhuman primates assigned to both research programs and to breeding colonies. The research colony is composed of animals assigned to active research studies. These animals are housed indoors in secure, access controlled animal housing facilities. The primary enclosures for housing are stainless steel cages which are contained within access controlled individual rooms.

Animals that are assigned to the breeding colonies are housed in outdoor field cages which are located on the south campus. The animals housed in these enclosures are utilized as a breeding population and are not experimentally exposed to infectious agents. The design of field cages allows housing of animals in groups which mimic the population distribution of nonhuman primates in their natural environment.