



Animal Program Policy

Title: Putative Oral Pathogens
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The Forsyth IACUC considers oral bacterial species to present minimal risks of occupational exposure and infection. This is because these pathogens, although associated with disease, are also found in healthy individuals, so their presence per se does not constitute disease. The chance of developing disease, such as periodontitis, from exposure to these pathogens is therefore very low. In addition, the majority of these pathogens are anaerobic, and their survival outside of an optimal environment is likely to be poor. In particular, Dana Jones, CDC Safety and Occupational Health Specialist, 404-639-7233, states *Porphyromonas gingivalis* can be treated as BSL-1, even though ATCC lists it as BSL-2. The IACUC considers the scientists at the Forsyth Institute to be leaders in the field of oral pathogens, and their opinions contribute to this policy.

Therefore, the IACUC will allow these pathogens to be handled under BSL-1 conditions, although BSL-2 is also appropriate. Lab coats used for experimental work with oral pathogens should be discarded after each use, and workers should follow safe work practices and engineering controls when handling these pathogens and inoculated animals.

Inoculated animals may be housed in conventional animal rooms, but should receive special handling following infection. Special handling will include clear labeling of cage cards to indicate that the animals are infected with bacteria, as well as husbandry modifications so that infected cages are the last on the rack to be changed, and gloves discarded immediately after handling the animals.

Each protocol involving these pathogens will be evaluated by the IACUC to determine the occupational exposure risks in some cases. BSL-2 precautions may still be required.

Examples of Putative Oral Pathogens (other species can be found at HOMD):

- *Treponema denticola*
- *Porphyromonas gingivalis*
- *Fusobacterium nucleatum*
- *Parvimonas micra*
- *Streptococcus intermedius*
- *Prevotella intermedia*
- *Aggregatibacter actinomycetemcomitans*