

## NE-RBL Usage Policies

The Tufts University New England Regional Biosafety Facility (NE-RBL) is a shared facility for conducting biosafety safety level 3 research. The NE-RBL has a shared BSL2 laboratory, plus 3 BSL3 laboratories and a ABSL3 vivarium with 4 animal holding rooms, an aerobiology suite, an insectary and supporting fixed equipment rooms. All BSL3 laboratories and vivarium are Select Agent registered. Access to the NE-RBL is restricted and a privilege. Access is granted only upon completion of required BSL2, BSL3 and Select Agent training, in addition to pathogen-specific and/or equipment-specific training. All RBL users are also required to read and understand all required SOPs. Any researcher entering a BSL3/ABSL3 area that requires wearing an N95 mask, must be test fitted. [A form for requesting access to the RBL is currently being developed to simplify the process by having a checklist.]

There are 4 categories of users:

- (1) RBL faculty and staff - unescorted privileges and access to all or most of the RBL program floor, including Select Agent registered areas.
- (2) Non-RBL researchers requiring long-term using or frequent access (ie weekly) - may be granted unescorted privileges within the Select Agent registered areas.
- (3) Non-RBL researchers requiring access to only BSL2 laboratory areas (BSL2 laboratory and/or confocal microscope room) - unescorted access to these areas only. Must complete BSL2 training and read required SOPs. May also be required to demonstrate competency for equipment usage. These users cannot 'escort' visitors in the RBL.
- (4) Visitors, including contractors - must be escorted at all times in the RBL; all floors.

### RBL Resources

The RBL has the following scientific resources available to researchers:

- Three major equipment (BD Fortessa flow cytometer, Zeiss LSM700 confocal microscope (inverted fluorescence) and a Xenogen IVIS Spectrum in vivo imaging system).
- Smaller specialized equipment in the BSL2 shared laboratory - NanoDrop 2000c Spectrophotometer, Bio-Tek Synergy 4 multi-detection plate reader, ABI 7500 Fast real-time instrument, inverted fluorescent microscope, and an EliSpot reader.
- Vivarium equipment - HemaVet950 and VetScan, and DSI telemetry equipment
- Aerobiology suite - inhalation studies

**Equipment Usage Policy.** RBL faculty and staff with unescorted access can enter the RBL facility at any time following appropriate SOPs. Access privileges by non-RBL researchers with unescorted privileges will be determined on a case-by-case basis. Non-RBL researchers with access to BSL2 areas only (no unescorted privileges) and visitors have access to the RBL only during business hours (8 AM - 4 PM; M-F) and with advance notice and approval by the RBL Manager to avoid overlapping equipment users.

Non-RBL researchers must go through an approval process to obtain access privileges to the RBL.

**BSL2 laboratory and confocal microscope room.** Requirements for access include BSL2 training, reading and understanding required SOPs, specialized equipment training, and hands-on

training to demonstrate competency (if required). PPE required are gloves and a disposable lab coat. Researcher must provide disposable lab coats or these will be provided, but billed to the researcher. A laboratory access fee may be accessed on a case-by-case basis. Usage of specialized equipment usage, including the Synergy 4, EliSpot reader and the ABI 7500 Fast may be accessed a usage fee (fee schedule in Table 1). There will be an hourly usage fee for the confocal microscope based on the type of usage (unassisted, assisted). There will also be a fee for training if required. See Table 1 for fee rates.

**BSL3 equipment.** The BDFortessa, a flow cytometer with 3 lasers, 18 detectors (no cell sorting) and the Xenogen IVIS Spectrum are located in the ABSL3 vivarium. Only researchers with Select Agent clearance that have met all entry requirements required for unescorted access are allowed; all others must be escorted (ie remain in line of sight of escort). There is a usage fee for both instruments (Table 1). In addition, there is a PPE charge of \$10/person/entry. Higher PPE charges are applied if a PAPR is required. Entry into any of the BSL3 laboratories will also be accessed a PPE charge (\$10/person/entry or more if a PAPR is required).

Samples brought into any BSL3/ABLS3 areas; regardless of its BSL status, cannot leave the RBL unless they have been properly decontaminated (autoclaved; treated with disinfectant; fixed in formalin, or deconned with chlorine dioxide). Samples containing infectious agents (BSL2) that are brought into the RBL must have amended IBC registrations with the RBL approved as a location for that agent. DTRR personnel can only bring animals into the RBL and appropriate IBC and IACUC protocols must be current. Animals entering the RBL cannot leave the facility. Per diem charges based on RBL rates and card swipe charges (\$10/entry/person, PPE) and room service charges will be added.

**Aerobiology suite.** Trained RBL personnel will conduct the inhalation studies. Charges will depend on the study design.

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**Table 1. Fee Schedule**

**Confocal Microscope (BSL2) - 30 min minimum charge; 15 min increments**

Type of Service	TCSVM Researchers	External Academic	Commercial
Researcher Unassisted	\$45/hr	\$60/hr	\$90/hr
Technical Assistance	TBD	TBD	
RBL Staff	TBD	TBD	\$120/hr
Training	TBD	TBD	TBD

**BD Fortessa (BSL3) - \$25 for set-up and shutdown procedures; 30 min minimum charge; 15 min increments**

Type of Service	TCSVM Researchers	External Academic	Commercial
Researcher Unassisted	\$60/hr	\$90/hr	\$130/hr
Technical Assistance	TBD	TBD	
RBL Staff	TBD	TBD	\$150/hr
Training	\$60/hr	\$90/hr	TBD

**Xenogen IVIS Spectrum - 30 min minimum charge; 15 min increments**

Type of Service	TCSVM Researchers	External Academic	Commercial
Researcher Unassisted	\$80/hr	\$120/hr	\$160/hr
Technical Assistance	TBD	TBD	
RBL Staff	TBD	TBD	\$180/hr
Training	TBD	TBD	TBD

**CTL Immunospot reader - 30 min minimum charge; 15 min increments**

Type of Service	TCSVM Researchers	External Academic	Commercial
Unassisted	\$12/plate	\$16/plate	\$25/plate

RBL Staff	TBD	TBD	\$30/plate
Training	\$20	\$20	\$40

**Synergy 4 MultiDetection Plate Reader - 30 min minimum charge; 15 min increments**

Type of Service	TCSVM Researchers	External Academic	Commercial
Unassisted	\$35/hr	\$45/hr	\$70/hr
RBL Staff	TBD	TBD	\$90/hr
Training	\$20	\$20	\$40

PPE charges to be added for use of each equipment.