



CRC News

CRC Staff News

The CRC would like to congratulate Sebastian Ortiz on his transfer to the Veterinary Technician position in the CRC. The CRC continues to recruit a 2nd Veterinary Technician and will begin recruiting for our open Animal Care Technician position.

CRC Holiday Schedule

*****HAPPY HOLIDAYS*****

Please make note of the following adjustments to the operations schedule for the 2023 holiday season:

1. The CRC will operate on weekend/holiday schedule on Monday, December 25, 2023.
2. The CRC will operate on weekend/holiday schedule on Monday, January 01, 2024.

A member of the CRC Husbandry staff will be on site to perform required animal husbandry tasks during each of these holidays. Members of the CRC administrative staff will be available as usual via cellular telephone during each of these days.

CRC Past Staff Member – Where Are They Now?

Jacquelyn Enriquez, Research Support Assistant: Head and Neck Cancer, University of Chicago

Hello lovelies! My name is Jacquelyn Enriquez, but everyone knows me by Jackie. 😊 I came to Rush during January of 2021. When working at Rush I was an Animal Care Technician. I really enjoyed the job while I was there, made some great connections and friends whether that be other animal care techs, or researchers. Sometimes I miss my little animal buddies, but then I remember when they used to try to be escape artist, wrangling pigs and scooping up mice, I now work at The University of Chicago as a research assistant. I now spend my days in clinic collecting specimens from head and neck cancer patients in hopes to find better ways to treat and diagnose oral cancer. If I'm not consenting a patient to research, I'm listening to the clinic life drama. One of the many things I miss about Rush was the free merchandise! GUYS, enjoy the T-shirts, hats, and stress balls lmao not all hospitals do that! 😊 Love my job now, but I do miss you guys! At this point I think the only one of my co-workers left is Felipe, shout out to him! Shout out to Tony and Sean, they were/are hands down the best managers. Stay Safe my RUSH family 😊



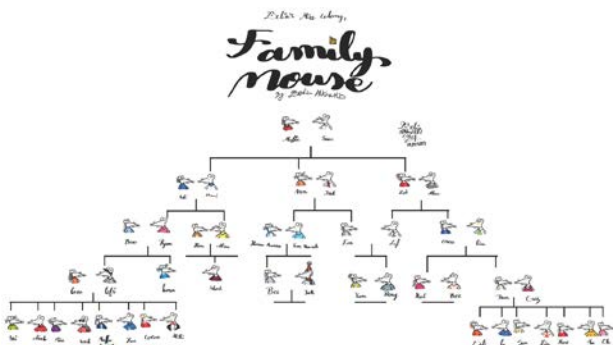
Meet A CRC Animal Researcher – “The Mice Whisperer”

Delia Alkhatib, PhD Integrated Biomedical Sciences, Chair of Community Engagement of RMA RushU, Co-Chair of ComSciCon Chicago, Anatomy and Cell biology Department



Cartoons and psychology of animated characters are the two first things I learned during my childhood and became my favorite. Being a cartoonist is one of my fantasies, but I ended up studying clinical biochemistry in my undergraduate and became a young researcher. I first became interested in biochemical pathways in bone and dental diseases since I started my M.Sc. IBS at Dr. Ryan Ross lab, at Rush University. I continued to pursue this interest as an IBS PhD student where I conducted research with Dr. Ryan Ross on the ways of improvement of bone and dental mineralization at XLH mice and the mechanism of action for canonical Wnt signaling in XLH hyp mice model. This resulted in a co-authorship publication, as well as presenting a poster at the ASBMR about dental and alveolar bone mineralization in Hyp mice. My study mice have been an inspiration to me since day one in Dr. Ross's lab. It is always interesting to observe their behavior and to understand their body language. I always believe that each creature has their own way of

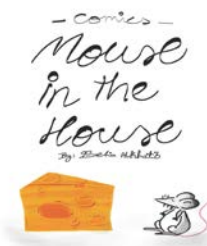
communication, and to have a better connection, you need to understand that type of communication. In my study mice case, I learned a lot about mice body language and that helped me in managing my mice colony for my studies. Since my first day in the lab, I noticed there is lack of data about mice colony history, and that inspired me to create a database about my mice colony history that includes their date of birth, genotype, sex, parent information, health records, mating records, psychological records, etc. I also designed a birth certificate for each mouse in my colony and I gave them names that match their behavior. For instance, Muffin is one of the favorite mice I had during my 3 years I spent at Dr. Ross's lab, she had XLH mutation and she was so friendly and fluffy. She learned fast how to be petted and to enjoy her treat in my hand pale! During breeding season, I run them a matching poll and make sure I put the right couples together. I also keep that in my records for next breeding. For the pregnant mice, I track their pregnancy and I keep on the cage a sign "Mouse pup shower". Surly, we don't actually run them a pup shower, but I make sure to give them a first-class dental checkups every month.



During "Christmouse" holidays, I decorate their cages with a "mouse-santa" hats so they can leave their wishes and write whether they were good mice or naughty ones. I believe this spreads cheerfulness and spirit of holidays around the colony.



My mice inspiration was not one presented in how I managed my colony, mice birth certificates and colony map and database, but also, I sketched my own comics based on my colony mice and named it "The Family Mouse".



Currently, I'm willing to continue sketching my comics and to keep using my cartoon sketches in writing lab protocols and colony management protocols so that would benefit all the upcoming students who are willing to be young researchers! At the end, success starts with three things: the will, creativity, and communication, even communication with your study mice is counted!

IACUC Meetings

Listed below are the scheduled meeting dates for the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) for 2024. Also listed are the deadlines for submitting protocol applications and requests to amend approved protocols. Please note that the committee meets on the 1st Thursday of each month (except when noted below) and application/protocol submission deadlines are on the 3rd Tuesday before the IACUC meeting. See the schedule for exact dates.

2024 IACUC APPLICATION/PROTOCOL MEETING DATES SUBMISSION DEADLINE

January 11	December 26, 2023
February 01	January 16, 2024
March 07	February 20
April 04	March 19
May 02	April 16
June 06	May 21
July 11	June 25
August 01	July 16
September 05	August 20
October 03	September 17
November 07	October 22
December 05	November 19

* If a quorum is not present, applications or protocols will not be reviewed until the next scheduled meeting.

CRC SOPs (Standard Operating Procedures)

A list of current CRC SOPs is now available on the CRC intranet site. Please click on the "Current CRC SOPs" link under the "Quick Links" banner or follow the link below:

http://inside2.rush.edu/departments/crc/Pages/CRC_Standard_Operating_Procedures.aspx

Thank you to Jacquelyn Enriquez and Delia Alkhatib, PhD for their contributions to this edition of the CRC Newsletter.

Send your suggestions for future newsletter topics or submit articles for publication consideration to Anthony D. Davis, via email anthony_d_davis@rush.edu, fax (3-3377), or mail (206 Cohn)

Comparative Research Center at Rush University Medical Center

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For research guidelines, forms, fee information, and more, visit us at <http://iris.rush.edu/crc/index.html> or via the Rush IACUC website <http://iris.rush.edu/iacuc/>