UCSF Procedures for Using Toxins in Rodents

1. All personnel working with biological toxin(s) in rodents must first read their lab’s BUA and Safety Data Sheet (SDS) of the specific toxin(s) they are approved to use to understand the biohazard of toxin, excretion routes and post-exposure procedures. SDS are available at [here](http://ehs.ucsf.edu/safety-data-sheet-sds-1).

2. Dilutions of powdered toxin must be performed in chemical fume hood.

3. Lab personnel must inform the LARC supervisor prior to using a toxin in rodents. EH&S may call a safety consideration meeting to discuss all safety concerns with LARC, IACUC and lab personnel.

4. Immediately prior to using a toxin in rodents, lab personnel must place a toxin label (see example below) on the animal cage card. Labels must remain on cage card for at least one week. Enter the name of the toxin and the date of administration on the label. Rodents may be housed in standard animal housing rooms.

5. Lab personnel must care for the animals and cages for the first week following administration of toxins. Specific precautions and PPE recommended in the SDS must be followed.

6. One week after the last administration of a toxin, lab personnel will place rodents in a clean cage and remove the toxin label from cage card. Lab personnel dispose of all dirty bedding as biohazardous waste. Dumping of bedding must be performed in a biosafety cabinet. The dirty cage must be decontaminated by spraying it with bleach and wiping all surfaces with a paper towel.

7. Once animals are placed in clean cages they are treated as non-contaminated animals. LARC staff will provide husbandry care for the animals and their cages.

8. If there is an accidental exposure to a toxin, flush the exposed area with copious amounts of water for 15 minutes, and contact the Occupational Health Service Exposure Hotline (353-7842) immediately afterwards.

9. Animal carcasses must be disposed as pathological waste and be incinerated.

Contact EH&S with questions about these procedures (Phone: 514-2824; Email: peili.zhu@ucsf.edu)