Small Animal Imaging Resources

The Imaging Research Center (IRC), located in the basement of NHB, provides access to MRI and Bioluminescence/Fluorescence/Chemiluminescence imaging instruments to UT researchers 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. These imaging systems can help provide unique, longitudinal insight into physiology, yielding more reliable and robust experimental data. They not only answer questions that are not easily accessible via other methods, they reduce the numbers of animals needed to achieve statistically-powerful results. The Center’s resources are designed to be economical and easy to use.

The MRI is a Bruker BioSpec 7 tesla system and is capable of reproducing nearly any small animal MRI experiment in the literature. Researchers may be trained to operate the system themselves. MRI is well-known for anatomical imaging, but it can also be used to make non-invasive measurements relating to organ perfusion, vascularity, ischemia, and various kinetics of metabolic processes. All of this can usually be performed in longitudinal studies.

The BI/FL/Cl system is a Xenogen IVIS Spectrum. It is a remarkable instrument. It is capable of making rapid, quantitative measurements in cell tracking, oncology, infectious disease, and CNS applications. The IVIS is capable of simultaneously imaging five animals. This instrument is so easy to use, an experienced animal researcher can be trained to use it in about a half hour.

To get a tour of the facility or to get more information, please contact Jeff Luci, jeffrey.luci@utexas.edu.