

Preclinical Experimental Animal Center (PETZ) at the Franz-Penzoldt-Center (FPZ)

Speaker

(scientific and managing director)

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Services and structure

The Preclinical Experimental Animal Center (PETZ) belongs to the Faculty of Medicine and is a facility at the Franz-Penzoldt-Center (FPZ) that serves as a state-of-the-art experimental animal facility for basic and preclinical research. The facility resources are primarily meant for users belonging to the Faculty of Medicine, but also offer state-of-the-art and appropriate animal housing with directly associated experimental facilities for other research groups and associations.

PETZ is a research-oriented animal facility that provides for customers a modern infrastructure and specific-pathogen-free conditions for pre-clinical animal experiments. The center offers various research related services, e.g. import of transgenic mouse strains via embryo transfer as well as veterinary advice and supervision in studies on large or small animals. PETZ provides state-of-the-art phenotyping services for neurobiological, hematological, neuroendocrine, and immunological characterization of mice and rats. Already as early as the time of project application, the team of PETZ provides competent references in all areas of the application processes and related questions regarding experimental strategy.

With its infrastructure, PETZ supports effective and optimized science and enables translational medical research in a controlled, standardized environment most appropriate for each of the species. Our center represents a professional and reliable partner on the way from the scientific idea and the consecutive ways ultimately resulting in benefits for the human patients.

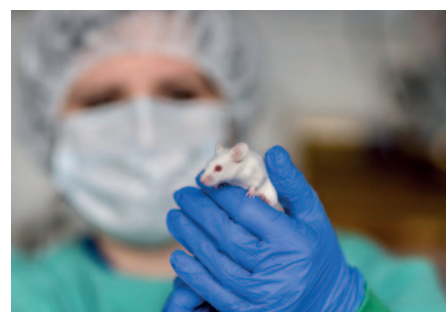


Mission and research

The superior goal of PETZ is the continuous implementation of the principles of reduction and refinement being part of the 3R's principles of humane animal research and experimentation. PETZ takes over responsibility for continuous optimization of the housing conditions for the benefit of both, animal welfare and quality of scientific results. Though primarily representing a service unit, PETZ runs independent research projects, acquires external funding, and is a source of exciting lectures, seminars, and practical courses on animal experimentation and ethics. Thus, central function of the PETZ is providing services and an environment of responsible and ethical breeding and treatment of animals in accordance with the local and national law. These constant achievements are combined with continuous optimization and standardization processes related to animal housing, including, but not limited to implementation of additional core services in animal phenotyping, quality management, and strategic facility management aiming at providing highest service quality also in the future.

PETZ provides statutorily regulated areas of operation, such as e.g. housing and experimental rooms that meet the safety levels for genetically modified organisms S1 and S2, and the biological safety levels (BSL) for infectious agents BSL I and BSL II. We take care that the experimental work within the facilities is carried out in accordance with the legal regulations of the German Infection Protection Act, Pharmaceuticals Act, Chemicals Act, and Medical Products Acts.

At the end of 2018, a variety of different research projects representing over 92 working groups are realized in the PETZ. These researchers originate from 43 institutes, chairs, or departments. Most of these working groups belong to the Faculty of Medicine.



Teaching

PETZ is a source of lectures, seminars, and practical courses on animal experimentation and ethics. The team organizes qualifying professional development courses in laboratory animal science (e.g. courses according to FELASA B criteria), offers the opportunity to learn animal experimental techniques and functions as a training company (Ausbildungsbetrieb) for the recognized occupation requiring formal training "laboratory animal technician", which is certified by the chamber of industry and commerce (IHK). The Center is a competent venue for surgical trainings in students' education as well as in the professional development of experienced practitioners. It places a priority on being a family friendly institution and implements the principles of gender equality in its processes and management to help its staff achieve a work life-balance.