

Groundbreaking is Held for the William L. and Liane B. Russell Laboratory for Comparative and Functional Genomics



The William L. and Liane B. Russell Laboratory for Comparative and Functional Genomics, nicknamed the "new mouse house," is a reality. Named for the distinguished founders of ORNL's mammalian genetics program, this state-of-the-art \$11.4M animal facility is slated for occupancy in the summer of 2003. A groundbreaking ceremony was held on-site on November 13, 2001, at which U.S. Rep. Zach Wamp, DOE-ORO's Ed Cumesty, ORNL Laboratory Director Bill Madia, ORNL Associate Laboratory Director Frank Harris, and Life Science's Barry Berven unveiled the building name to the surprised and delighted Russells.

The new facility will be populated with mice that carry none of the common mouse micro-organisms that inhabit the "old mouse house," making sharing of these valuable genetic strains with the research community an easy task. The new facility will also be equipped with modern cages, racks, and other animal care equipment designed to protect the health of both mice and animal care staff.

The science program in the new mouse house will focus on mutating the genes in mice that reside in the DOE Human Genome Program's three human chromosomes of interest (5, 16, and 19), on analyzing the role that individual genetic makeup plays in susceptibility to environmental exposures and diseases, and on participation in the Tennessee Mouse Genome Consortium's effort in providing the research community with mouse models of human genetic diseases.

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