1.0   OBJECTIVE

1.1   The objective of this procedure is to describe the procedures for randomization of animals on arrival in the MMRI facility.

2.0   SCOPE

2.1   This procedure applies to animals received in the Animal Care facility at MMRI.

3.0   POLICY

3.1   It is the policy of MMRI to establish written and approved procedures to ensure that there is no bias in selection of animals for study procedures.

4.0   RESPONSIBILITIES

4.1   It is the responsibility of Manager of Animal Research or designated alternate to implement this procedure and revise it when necessary.

5.0   REFERENCES

5.1   SOP #ANP014, Animal Procurement and Receipt

6.0   PROCEDURE

6.1   Randomization is the process of selecting animals or other objects without following any systematic method or specific pattern.

6.2   Randomization procedure

6.2.1   Animals are randomized upon arrival. Upon receipt of animals, transfer the animals at random from the shipping container into appropriate cages according to SOP #ANP014.

6.2.2   Pre-made, sequential cage cards are placed on the cages. Five animals will be put in the cage, all will have individual cage cards. Place all five cage cards (in numerical order) in the card holder on the front of the cage.

6.2.3   After the animals have completed quarantine, when the animals are being evaluated for inclusion in a study, the first animal randomly withdrawn from the cage will correspond to the first card on the cage, and so on.

6.3   Selected animals may be further randomized by weight or other characteristic, if specified in the study protocol, once cage cards are assigned. This further randomization may be accomplished by random card shuffling, use of a number table, or use of a computerized algorithm, as specified in the study protocol.