This workshop is a hands-on course designed to familiarize the participant to the practices of animal handling and phenotyping techniques that are commonly used when working with the rat and mouse. Our experts will teach the basics of animal handling, injections, urine and blood sampling, assessment of blood pressure (Day 1), renal hemodynamics and transport on the whole kidney level (Day 2) as well as on the single nephron level (Day 3) and in models of kidney injury (Days 4). The format includes lectures, demonstrations and hands-on practical training and is open to research assistants, graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, residents, scientists and faculty from academia/industry.

The aim of the workshop is to familiarize participants with practical procedures used to characterize renal function in rodents (rats and mice).

Day 1 Introduction and Basic Procedures
Instructors: Bray, Goodluck, Nespoux, Slater, Vallon
Introductory Lectures
8:00 AM - 9:45 AM: Handling of rats and mice, laws and regulations
Practical Sessions
10:00 AM - 5:15 PM: a) Basic handling of rats and mice, isoflurane anesthesia, injections (IP, SC, tail vein and retro-orbital), drawing blood, oral gavage, and tail and ear biopsies; b) Metabolic cage studies in mice; c) Blood pressure by tail cuff in mice.

Day 2 Whole Kidney Function
Instructors: Nespoux, Singh, Thomson, Vallon
Introductory Lectures
8:00 AM - 8:25 AM: Assessment of glomerular filtration rate (GFR) (incl. clearance studies)
8:25 AM - 8:50 AM: Assessment of GFR by FITC inulin kinetics
9:00 AM - 9:25 AM: Assessment of renal transport
10:00 AM - 5:15 PM: a) GFR by FITC inulin kinetics in mice; b) Arterial blood pressure, renal clearance experiment and flow probe in rats; c) Urine and plasma analysis.

Day 3 Single Nephron Function
Instructors: Nespoux, Thomson, Singh, Vallon
Data analysis session
8:00 AM - 8:55 AM: Analysis of data from a) FITC-inulin study and b) Metabolic cage
9:00 AM - 9:55 AM: Analysis of renal clearance studies and blood flow measurements
Introductory Lectures
10:00 AM - 10:40 AM: Determinants of single nephron GFR and their measurement
10:45 AM - 11:20 AM: Tubuloglomerular feedback
11:25 AM - 12:00 PM: Assessment of renal transport by micropuncture
Practical Sessions
1:00 PM - 5:15 PM: a) Rat preparation for micropuncture and pipette making; b) Rat renal micropuncture and microanalysis.
Day 4 Models of Kidney Injury
Instructors: Agarwal, Sanders, Singh, Thomson
Introductory Lectures
8:00 AM - 8:40 AM: Models of acute kidney injury (AKI)
8:45 AM - 9:05 AM: Cecal ligation and puncture model of AKI
9:10 AM - 9:50 AM: Models of chronic kidney disease (CKD)
Practical Sessions
10:00 AM - 5:15 PM: a) Ischemia-reperfusion injury in the rat; b) Unilateral nephrectomy and subtotal nephrectomy in the rat; c) Cecal ligation and puncture in the mouse.

Day 5 Review and Discussion
Instructors: All faculty
8:00 AM - 10:30 AM: Questions and answers.

WORKSHOP INSTRUCTORS

University of California San Diego and VA Medical Center Lecturers and Instructors
Mari Bray D.V.M., DACLAM, Veterinary Medical Officer: Dr. Bray is a laboratory animal veterinarian with interests in all aspects of laboratory animal care and use, including design of research models using humane methods.

Helen Goodluck, Ph.D., Postdoc Fellow: Studies role of amino acid transport in kidney physiology and pathophysiology using gene-targeted mice.

Young Chul Kim, Ph.D., Research Scientist: Studies role of leptin in kidney physiology and pathophysiology using gene-targeted mice.


Prabhleen Singh M.D., Associate Professor of Medicine: Dr. Singh is interested in the pathophysiology of early chronic kidney disease and the early hemodynamic and metabolic alterations in models of kidney disease on the single nephron and whole kidney level.

Scott Thomson M.D., Professor of Medicine: Dr. Thomson conducts research into the autoregulation of renal function with particular emphasis on tubuloglomerular feedback.

Volker Vallon M.D., Professor of Medicine and Pharmacology: Research interests include molecular determinants of renal transport mechanisms, blood pressure regulation, and the pathophysiology of the early diabetic kidney.

Guest Lecturers and Instructors
Larkin Slater, BA, RLAT, Animal Facility Manager, San Diego State University (lslater@sdsu.edu): Larkin has over 15 years experience working with rodents in research settings adhering to NIH and USDA standards. As the Manager for the rodent research facilities at San Diego State Larkin is responsible for training all new animal users in handling and basic administrative and blood collection techniques. She has been an active instructor with San Diego AALAS in rodent handling, administration and blood collection; anesthesia, euthanasia and necropsy; as well as aseptic surgical techniques. In addition, Larkin has been an adjunct instructor at City College for the "Use of Rodents in Research" portion of the Bio 206 course.

Josselin Nespoux, MS, Ph.D. student: British Heart Foundation Centre for Cardiovascular Science, The University of Edinburgh, UK: Studies role of SGLTs and purinergic receptors in kidney disease using gene-targeted mice.

University of Alabama at Birmingham Lecturers and Instructors
Anupam Agarwal, M.D., Director, Division of Nephrology and UAB-UCSD O’Brien Core Center Director: Research interests focus on pathophysiology of acute kidney injury in animal models using in vivo and in vitro techniques. Animal models include renal I/R, sepsis, nephrotoxins and renal transplantation in mice.

Paul Sanders, M.D., Professor of Medicine, Core Director, Resource for Pre-clinical Studies of the O’Brien Center: Research interests include acute renal tubular injury from light chains, multiple myeloma, salt sensitive hypertension and cell signaling.

WORKSHOP LOCATION
The location for this workshop will be the VA San Diego Healthcare Hospital.

O’Brien Center Workshop Director: Dr. Volker Vallon (vvallon@ucsd.edu)
O’Brien Center Workshop Coordinator: Ruben Figueroa (r2figueroa@ucsd.edu)
Your registration fee ($900.00 USD for academic, $1800.00 USD for industry) includes all course material in a binder, continental breakfasts, lunches, and one evening meal commemorating the workshop. All participants will leave with a memory stick containing the entire workshop lectures, worksheets, contact information of instructors. Lab coats will be provided.

Please submit

Last Name: ____________________________________________
Institution: ____________________________________________
Department: ____________________________________________
Mailing Address: ____________________________________________
Phone Number: ____________________________________________
Fax Number: ____________________________________________
E-mail Address: ____________________________________________

Submit completed registration information, your biosketch, and a brief paragraph on your career goals by e-mail to:

Ruben Figueroa
O’Brien Center Workshop Coordinator
Nephrology-Hypertension
UC San Diego Health
200 West Arbor Drive, # 8409
San Diego, CA 92103-8907
T: 619-471-0753
Email: r2figueroa@ucsd.edu
and cc to Dr. Vallon (vallon@ucsd.edu)

Once your application and accompanying materials are received, you will be furnished details for submitting your registration fee. Please Note: Your participation in this workshop is not guaranteed until registration fees are received by us.

Accommodations and Travel
Participants are responsible for their own travel and housing arrangements. Ruben Figueroa, O’Brien Center Workshop Coordinator, will provide assistance (See above for contact information).

PREVIOUS PARTICIPANTS

Previous participants include graduate students, postdocs, research assistants, research associates, scientists, and faculty from 52 institutions from 11 countries.

Some comments from recent workshop participants: “course was well organized with very knowledgeable instructors and highly skilled technicians”; “instructors were extremely helpful and patient in explaining each technique”; “extremely hands-on experience allowing for full understanding of the subject matter”; “there was ample time in each lab session to both get the hands-on experience and discuss theory pertaining to the experiment”; “the small groups were very amenable to close contact and feedback with the instructors as well as making new relationships”; “you get to see it’s not so difficult as it sounds”; “for the FITC sinistrin it was nice to see how simple and efficient assessing GFR is”; “I did not have any surgery skills prior to this workshop and by the end I not only see the need for having this skill but also I am now very interested in including whole body physiological experiments in my future studies”; “the micropuncture experiments were so exciting”; “assistance/education in both practical aspects of experiments as well as analysis”; “this course reignited my passion for research and at the same time provided me new techniques & perspectives to ask new and different questions relating to my work”; “the professionalism, collegiality, and hospitality were extraordinary”; “it was a fantastic experience that gave me a unique opportunity to network, learn new techniques, and improve some of the skills I was already familiar with. But equally important, the lectures and intellectual conversations were quite stimulating and thought provoking”; “I strongly recommend this course. It caused a huge jump in my understanding as well as my interest in this field”; “the dynamic discussions, inclusions and diversity of the participants were wonderful”; “it was an extra ordinary experience, way beyond my expectations and it was great to be connected to such a wonderful team”; “it was a great networking opportunity”.

There are only nine slots available for this workshop, please register early!

We are looking forward to seeing you in San Diego!