

ELECTROPHYSIOLOGY CORE TERMS OF SERVICE

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Purpose

The primary objective of the Electrophysiology Core is to provide critical support for NINDS-funded and other neuroscience projects that require analysis of ion channel activity and electrophysiology in neurons and glia. The Core will perform such experiments for pilot and existing projects and will also provide training and access to equipment for users to perform their own experiments.

Initiation of projects

All projects are to be initiated at the discretion of the Core Director. A decision to accept projects is dependent on the expertise, equipment, capacity, and workload of the Core. If scheduling conflicts arise, the order of priority will be as follows: (1) NINDS-funded projects, (2) other funded neuroscience projects and neuroscience projects of Junior investigators (within 5 years of their appointment), and (3) PIs that are seeking to obtain preliminary data for an extramural neuroscience grant application. Individuals interested in using the Core contact the Core Director to set up an initial consultation.

Services

The primary service of the Electrophysiology Core is to provide expert consultation and assistance with electrophysiological analyses of ion channel activity in neuronal cells and tissues. Typically, this involves assessment of neuronal excitability and action potential firing, measurements of synaptic transmission, or recordings of the activity of specific ligand-gated or voltage-gated ion channels. The core can perform experiments for the User and can also provide access to equipment in the form of stations (or rigs), training in the use of this equipment, and consultation on experimental design and data analysis.

User Responsibilities

The User is responsible for the cost of all unique reagents required for the project. The Core will provide access to common consumables, inhibitors, and chemicals. The User is also responsible for identifying an individual to implement the project and/or be trained by Core Staff. In the event that Core staff perform the experiments directly, the User and Core Director will establish a minimal and maximal cost for the project up front, as well as make arrangements (where applicable), regarding (co-) authorships and/or intellectual property issues. The User agrees to acknowledge the Center Core grant P30 NS104177 in all publications related to data acquired with core equipment, data that were dependent on training or consultation by Core staff, or data provided to the User by the Core. Scheduling of experiments will be done through consultation between the Core Director, the User, and Core Manager. Once scheduled, the appropriate time and equipment will be reserved for the User and changes in scheduling within 3 days of projected use will result in billing for full services. The User acknowledges that the Core reserves the right to halt or cancel experiments if: A) a minimal likelihood of completion is indicated by the results obtained, B) core equipment is consistently used inappropriately causing or increasing the likelihood of damage, C) the User fails to maintain a safe and clean work area within the Core, D) the User fails to provide requested information to the Core Director or Core personnel regarding experimental reagents, animals, animal protocols, BSL status, or recombinant DNA permission, E) the feasibility of attaining the experimental goals become unrealistic, or F) non-adherence by the User to proper personal conduct and/or violation of university rules/procedures. Proper conduct requires that a comfortable work environment be maintained within the core and personnel are treated with respect at all times: abusive language, harassment, or threats to personnel will be considered non-adherence to proper personal conduct.