Perfusion Safety

Follow these precautions when conducting rodent perfusions with formalin solution.

Set-up work area

- Turn on hose at downdraft table.
- Direct water flow away from the downdraft table ventilation intake to prevent water infiltration into the ventilation ductwork.
- If giving multiple injections of an anesthetizing agent, don’t re-cap needles. Place uncapped needles in a rigid tray between uses.

Put on personal protective equipment

- Wear gloves, preferably nitrile, disposable gown, head covering, surgical mask and safety glasses.

Note: 10% neutral buffered formalin is approximately 4% formaldehyde

Clean up the area

- Formalin solution/blood waste created during a rodent perfusion should be collected and disposed of through the EHS Chemical Waste Program.
- Wash downdraft table, including underside of perforated table surface. Disinfect with Virkon® or other LAR-approved product.
- After removing PPE, place soiled PPE in medical waste and wash hands.

Report exposures to formalin solution/rodent body fluids

- Eyes: rinse at eyewash for 15 minutes
- Percutaneous injuries: rinse with warm water/soap.
- Report all exposures, regardless of severity, to Employee Health (258-5035) and your supervisor.

EHS Contact: Jacqueline Wagner, Biosafety Officer, 258-1427