

July 31, 2002

***JAX<sup>®</sup> Mice Strain 129P3/J (Stock Number: 000690) is Now Available***

Mice from JAX<sup>®</sup> Mice strain 129P3/J (Stock Number: 000690) are now available at Standard Supply Level 2: Up to 25 mice of each gender can be shipped per order per month. *NOTE: Temporarily, there may be a short waiting period to fulfill new orders as current inventory is being used to fulfill existing orders.*

***Background Information:***

As reported earlier, we temporarily suspended shipment of strain 129P3/J on May 22, 2002 when some of the mice in a distribution colony for this strain were found to be ill with diarrhea during routine animal health surveillance. The sick mice were submitted to Laboratory Animal Health Services at The Jackson Laboratory for evaluation.

During the time period between May 22 and July 24, 2002, we developed a new colony of JAX<sup>®</sup> Mice strain 129P3/J using mice from the Foundation and Pedigree Expansion colonies for this strain. Mice in this new colony of 129P3/J have shown no signs of illness. Furthermore, results obtained from testing mice from the new colony by routine diagnostic screening and by anaerobic testing of intestinal contents and feces, were all negative. Based on this information, JAX<sup>®</sup> Mice strain 129P3/J has been released from temporary hold and is now available.

Also as described in earlier communications, the agent(s) causing the illness observed in the original colony for strain 129P3/J was *not* one of the agents included in our routine animal health monitoring program (which includes a broad range of agents from highly infectious, pathogenic agents to opportunistic organisms). Based on extensive testing and consultation with external experts, we have identified the causative agents as members of the genus *Clostridium* (*not* the agent responsible for Tyzzer's disease). Clostridia are anaerobic, spore-forming bacteria. Anaerobes constitute approximately 99% of mammalian intestinal flora. However, the growth requirements of anaerobes are very fastidious and, as a result, none of the rodent diagnostic laboratories or breeders of laboratory animals monitor for them routinely. We have since conducted additional, extensive sanitation of all environmental surfaces that might have contributed to this transitory illness and will continue to monitor and evaluate any mice that show signs of infectious disease.

***Questions/Concerns:*** Please contact Laboratory Animal Health Services at 207-288-6205