

II. Mating of blastocyst donors:

On Thursday afternoon (not before 15:00) 20 superovulated C57BL/6 females are mated to 20 C57BL/6 males (max. 1 year old); one female per male in individual cages. Check for vaginal plugs next morning and separate the plugged females from the unplugged ones and put them into two individual cages.

III. Mating of fosters:

On Friday afternoon (not before 15:00) 20 NMRI females (between 2 and 5 months) are mated to 10 sterile (vasectomized) NMRI males (max. 1 year old); two females per male in individual cages.

Check for vaginal plugs next morning and separate the plugged females from the unplugged ones and put them into two individual cages.

IV. Preparation of blastocysts for microinjection on Mondays (day 3.5):

Blastocyst donors are sacrificed in the morning at 8:00 and embryos are collected from the uteri.

Wash the blastocysts after isolation in M2 media and store them in M16 in a CO2 incubator until microinjection.

V. Blastocyst injection:

15 – 25 (max.) ES cells are microinjected into a host blastocyst.

VI. Embryo transfer into day 2.5 foster females:

Transfer 12-16 injected blastocysts into one foster female (6-8 embryos per side).