

Dear Researchers working with mice and rats,

We currently feed sterile, irradiated diet to most of our immunodeficient mice (e.g. SCID) receiving medicated chow (sulfadiazine/trimethoprim), to all rodents receiving fenbendazole chow and to all rodents consuming experimental diets. We have found no problems with these sterile diets. The benefits of irradiated diet are that they do not clump together and petrify in the hopper and they have a consistent nutrient content unlike the variation seen in autoclaved diet driven by a range of autoclave temperatures and times.

I would like to propose we change from autoclaved diet (Purina Lab Diet 5010) to irradiated diet (Purina Pico Lab Diet 5053) in June. Please refer to the attached product descriptions. The Purina nutritionist recommends transition to 5053 considering the nutrient analyses of both chows. Our colleagues at Boston Children's Hospital, MIT, U Mass Med Ctr, Dana Farber Cancer Institute, Harvard University, Boston University and Albany Medical center all feed irradiated diet PicoLab 5053 to their rodents.

While irradiated diets are more expensive, the transition will be budget neutral given autoclave labor savings. Please let me know if you have any questions you would like to pose to the Purina nutritionist.

Best wishes- Jeff

Jeff Wyatt DVM, MPH, DACLAM
Professor & Chair, Comparative Medicine
University of Rochester
School of Medicine & Dentistry
601 Elmwood Avenue- Box 674
Rochester, NY 14642

Environmental Justice Advocate
Seneca Park Zoo
2222 St Paul St
Rochester, NY 14621

jeff_wyatt@urmc.rochester.edu<mailto:jeff_wyatt@urmc.rochester.edu>
(585)-275-2651
Animal Resource website:
<https://www.urmc.rochester.edu/animal-resource.aspx>

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