

**NTP Workshop - June 2005**

**Taconic animal models for the  
NTP rodent cancer Bioassay**

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# Objective

To find a solution to the NTP's need for a harmonized rat model for use in toxicology and pharmacology.

# GALAS Wistar Hannover

- Taconic Farms, Taconic Europe and CLEA, Japan formed a “Global Alliance for Laboratory Animal Standardization”.
- Each GALAS member received WH stock from RCC for rederivation + stocking of their facilities.
- Colonies started in 2000.

# Advantages of the Wistar Hannover rat as a toxicology model

1. A hardy outbred rat
2. Lower body weight than a SD
3. Excellent reproductive performance
4. Good survival rate
5. Stable characteristics

# The GALAS Wistar Hannover

Taconic maintains a harmonized Wistar Hannover rat.

The GALAS WH is produced in Europe, North America and Asia.

# Advantages of the GALAS Wistar Hannover

1. Genetically stable
2. Produced under uniform conditions
3. Harmonized rat available in North America, Europe and Asia
4. Excellent health standard
5. Regular phenotypic monitoring
6. Historical phenotypic data available.

# How is the GALAS WH harmonized?

- Genetic profile determined by examining polymorphism frequency for 17 loci on 9 chromosomes using microsatellite markers.
- Colonies sampled annually to verify the same genetic profile.
- Plan to refresh by maintaining a central embryo source and refreshing all colonies every 5 years.

# Husbandry + Health-testing

- Feed NIH31M.
- Poiley System for breeding (12 groups).
- Colonies maintained at Taconic International Health Monitoring Standard (IHMS) at Murine Pathogen Free (MPF) status.
- Use Taconic's International Health Monitoring System (IHMS).

# Phenotypic monitoring

- Several decades of RCC data available on the GALAS WH.
- 2-year phenotypic studies.
- Basic physiologic parameters measured in each colony to ensure stability

# Phenotypic monitoring

- Phenotypic data includes:
  - Body weight
  - Survival rate
  - Hematology
  - Serum biochemistry
  - Urinalysis
  - Organ weights
  - Histopathology

# Conclusion

The GALAS WH is an excellent toxicology model, stable, consistent and readily available from CLEA in Japan, and Taconic in the U.S. and Europe.

**Questions?**

**[www.galas.org](http://www.galas.org)**

**[www.taconic.com/news-press/  
wistar\\_hannover\\_data\\_NTP.htm](http://www.taconic.com/news-press/wistar_hannover_data_NTP.htm)**