

9.4T MRI FACILITY
SOP#105-03 VISITOR APPROVAL

1. **INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 Research involving Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) at high magnetic field strengths presents unique hazards to individuals working within and around the MRI system. The potential for serious personal injury is present due to the sheer size and strength of the static magnetic field along with the immense flexibility of the research system and associated peripheral hardware.
- 1.2 The static magnetic field in the 9.4T MRI Facility is always present. It is important that all those entering the facility be aware of the presence of the field, as it cannot be detected by our person in any way, i.e. magnetic fields cannot be felt, seen, or smelt.
- 1.3 The 9.4T MRI Facility, excluding the Tech office and the control room, is considered a Level 2 Biohazard Facility as outlined by Health Canada's "Laboratory Safety Guidelines, 3rd edition". However, not all work conducted is Level 2.
- 1.4 Animals may be present in the 9.4T MRI Facility at any time. Because it is possible for diseases to be transmitted from animals to humans, any individual at particular risk of such an infection should be identified before the risks are encountered. In particular, individuals who are immune compromised (e.g., HIV infection, anti-rejections drugs or steroids, chemotherapy drugs, pregnancy, etc.) should be made aware of the potential risks involved prior to entering the 9.4T MRI Facility.
- 1.5 Visitors entering the 9.4T MRI Facility must follow the procedures outlined below. A visitor is defined as any person without security access to the facility, and/or not participating in the current experiment.

2. **REGULATIONS FOR ALL VISITORS**

- 2.1 Tours of the 9.4T MRI Facility are restricted to the console room ONLY.
- 2.2 All visitors must be accompanied by at least one authorized personnel with security access to the 9.4T MRI Facility. All visitors must read this SOP. Visitors are not to be left alone in the Facility at ANY time.
- 2.3 Visitors are NOT allowed inside the magnet room, as indicated by the MRI ZONE IV sign, and may or may not be allowed inside the Prep Room depending on current circumstances (i.e. study underway).
- 2.4 The MRI operator at any given time may grant or deny entry to the Facility under the direction of the Facility Director, Manager or Animal Technician. If someone is unwilling to leave the Facility the operator should phone Robarts Security (x24041). The operator should not attempt to escort the person out of the Facility on their own.

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