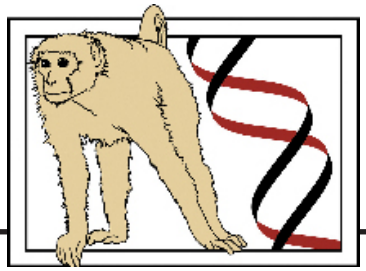
What is the WNPRC?

Wisconsin National Primate Research Center
University of Wisconsin-Madison



Our Mission:

The Wisconsin National Primate Research Center's mission is to increase society's understanding of basic primate biology and to improve human health and quality of life through research. The WNPRC:

- Helps discover treatments, preventions and cures for human disease;
- Generates new knowledge of primate biology, from the molecular to whole animal levels to the understanding of primate ecosystems;
- Facilitates research progress by providing expertise, resources and training to scientists worldwide;
- Organizes information about primates and disseminates it to the research community and to the public.

The WNPRC is based in the Graduate School of the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The Center has strong research and teaching links to the Schools of Medicine & Public Health and Veterinary Medicine, the College of Letters & Science, the College of Agriculture & Life Sciences, and the Institute for Clinical and Translational Research.

The UW-Madison is a leader in scholarship, research and teaching, with approximately 2,000 faculty, 16,300 staff, 9,000 graduate students, 2,600 professional students and 28,500 undergraduates. The research and total budgets, $880 million and 2.2 billion, respectively, consistently rank in the top five among public universities. The UW promotes cross-campus collaboration with programs such as Endocrinology/ Reproductive Physiology, Cell and Molecular Biology, Developmental Biology, Neurosciences, Stem Cell and Regenerative Medicine, Biology of Aging, and Women's Health Research.

The WNPRC is:

- One of eight federally supported primate centers and the only one in the Midwest;
- Funded by the National Center for Research Resources, National Institutes of Health, which supports research, laboratories, animal services and staff at the Primate Center;
- A center of more than 250 doctoral level scientists who fund their research through competitive grants totaling approximately $46 million per year.

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The WNPRC cares for approximately 1,070 rhesus macaques, 210 common marmosets, and 70 cynomolgus macaques. Center research projects are reviewed at many regulatory levels to ensure conformity with the Animal Welfare Act, USDA and Public Health Service's Guide for the Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee guidelines and policies, and NIH research protocols. The Graduate School, including the Primate Center, is fully accredited by the American Association for the Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care-International (AAALAC-I).

Since 1961:

The WNPRC was established by the National Institutes of Health in 1961. The center began with an emphasis in basic reproduction, development and behavioral research.

Center scientists in the early 1980s produced the world's first in vitro fertilized rhesus monkey. In the 1990s, center researchers pioneered the successful isolation and culture of both monkey and human embryonic stem cells. Center scientists continue to make novel research discoveries relating to stem cell purification, characterization, development, differentiation and genetic reprogramming.

THE UNIVERSITY of WISCONSIN MADISON

Primate Center scientists also learned in the 1990s how HIV infects the primate host and escapes the immune system, information critical to vaccine development.

In the past five years alone, the WNPRC has established a major AIDS vaccine research laboratory in the University of Wisconsin's Research Park, built the nation's first Internet Primate Aging Database, launched the Preclinical Parkinson's Research Program, and became a core component of both the University of Wisconsin-Madison's Stem Cell and Regenerative Medicine Center and the Institute for Clinical and Translational Research.

The center has long supported groundbreaking studies on the health benefits of calorie restriction in aging primates, causes of polycystic ovary syndrome, improved techniques for noninvasive primate brain imaging, neuroendocrine triggers of puberty, mechanisms of psychological disorders, new therapies for glaucoma and presbyopia, requirements for early pregnancy success, and improved hormone analysis in wild primates.

WNPRC Research Areas

Aging and Metabolism

- effects of caloric restriction on aging
- obesity
- diabetes mellitus
- osteoporosis
- ocular aging (glaucoma, presbyopia)
- neurodegeneration
- gene expression profiling
- Parkinson's disease

Immunogenetics and Virology

- HIV vaccines
- simian immunodeficiency virus
- MHC-defined animals
- cytotoxic T-cells
- molecular MHC analysis

Reproduction and Regenerative Medicine

- stem cell biology
- fertility regulation
- embryonic differentiation
- maternal-fetal health
- reproductive neuroendocrinology
- polycystic ovarian syndrome
- endometriosis
- reproductive tract gene therapy

WNPRC Discoveries

- Embryonic & induced pluripotent stem cells
- Dietary restriction improves primate health
- New therapies for glaucoma and presbyopia
- New approaches for treating Parkinson's disease
- How HIV infects, and escapes immune system
- Risk factors for endometriosis
- Causes of polycystic ovary syndrome
- Better enrichment, veterinary care
- Neuroendocrine triggers of puberty
- Improved hormone analysis in wild monkeys
- Understanding primate family dynamics, hormones and behavior
- Understanding emotion
- Requirements for early pregnancy success
- Nature of taste in primates
- Improved IVF techniques

Primate Info Net

pin.primate.wisc.edu

Audiovisual Services: Primate materials archive.
Careers in Primatology: For people considering working with nonhuman primates.
International Directory of Primatology: A 400-page directory to the field of primatology.
Primate-Jobs: An internet job listing service on the web.
PrimateLit: A bibliographical database for primatology.
Primate-Science: A professional electronic discussion forum for nonhuman primate researchers.

...And many more primatology resources.

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Get more Primate Center fact sheets at: www.primate.wisc.edu/wprc/news.html