

Fly on the Wall

Australian *Drosophila* Biomedical Research Support Facility

Volume 1
March 2008

Welcome to OzDros

The Australian *Drosophila* Biomedical Research Support Facility has been established with an NH&MRC Enabling Grant to Professor Robert Saint and colleagues with infrastructure support provided by the Research School of Biological Sciences at the Australian National University.

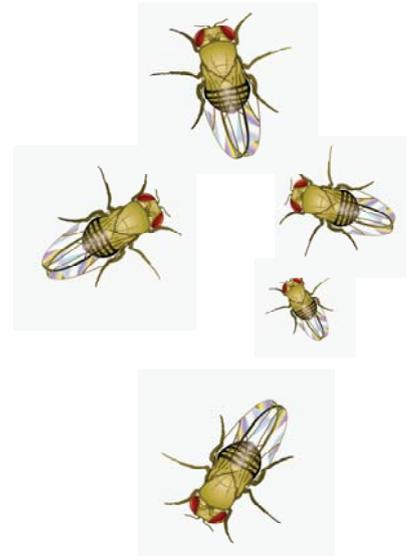
The Facility officially began at the end of August 2007 with the appointment of a Manager, Dr Narelle Tunstall, and the choice of a much catchier and shorter name - OzDros!

OzDros will be supported by two technicians. The appointment of technician Cassis Lumb in November has enabled OzDros to really start moving ahead with over 1300 stocks being entered into the Facility's Core Collection. We are expecting a second technician to join us in a few weeks.

An Access Agreement and Policy will be sent to PIs soon to make our services official, in the meantime we are happy to handle your requests via email.

We have already sent out a few stocks and cDNA clones to a couple of labs. However micro-injection facilities are not currently available. We hope to offer this as a 'pay per use' service later in the year.

The OzDros website www.ozdros.com is now live, though still a work in progress. All crucial information regarding importation, for example, is available, but an online database and 'shopping cart' is still being developed. We hope to have this feature functioning very soon to facilitate ordering of stocks from our Core Collection.



OzDros Events - Lorne



OzDros made its first public appearance at the 20th Lorne Cancer and 29th Lorne Genome conferences in February.

This was a first step in making the greater science community aware of the facility and we hope that this awareness will continue to grow via word of mouth.

One of our goals is to help Australian Biomedical non-*Drosophila* labs start using *Drosophila* as a model organism for part of their research.

If you see a situation where you think that a non-*Drosophila* lab could benefit from *Drosophila* based research, please refer them to us.

OzDros Core Collection

The OzDros Core Collection now consists of over 1300 stocks and is steadily growing. A list of stocks can be obtained as an Excel file from the manager.

Currently our stocks include; the Bloomington Deficiency Kit, the Baylor Mapping Kit, PhiC31 and most FLP/FRT stocks. We have many GFP, GAL4 and UAS lines in quarantine or on their way from Bloomington. We also have various RNAi lines from the VDRC and a few from NIG.

There was a significant delay in obtaining Bloomington lines due to

their food problems last year after moving to a new kitchen. Thankfully the runny food that caused substantial deaths on arrival now seems to be back to normal.

We have made a practise of keeping a copy of any stock-centre stock that comes through our Quarantine Approved Premise (QAP) and adding it to our stock list.

Stocks from other research labs/your collaborators are not routinely kept. Though this can be arranged if you think the stock will be valuable to the fly community. We have however, started keeping a record of genotypes

coming through the facility to create a national database of stocks. Our aim is to reduce stock importation by providing information on all stocks held in Australia.



Quarantine Facility

If you would like to import stocks of *Drosophila* through our QAP please see the importing and ordering page on our website or contact the manager for details.



Briefly, you will need to supply the lab from which you are requesting stocks with a copy of our import permit (a pdf is available on our website) and ask them to label the package with "Live insects under quarantine: *Drosophila melanogaster*, import permit IP07006145 copy attached".

Ask them to address the package;
to you
c/o Robert Saint,
RSBS, ANU,
Bld 46, Sullivans Creek Rd
Acton ACT 0200

They will also need to include a statement on their letterhead saying that the samples are laboratory stocks of *Drosophila melanogaster* for research purposes only.

Soon we will be setting up an electronic import notification form on our website that will allow you to easily notify us of the stocks we should be expecting. This will hopefully allow us to forward your flies even sooner.

Become a Member of OzDros

We will be sending out an Access Agreement package (including application form and Access Policy) to Australian *Drosophila* PIs very soon. This will cover important considerations such as PC2/OGTR certification of each participating lab.

A Clone for Every Occasion

We have the BDGP *Drosophila* Gene Collection (DGC) release 1 and 2 held at the OzDros Facility.

Anyone wishing to obtain a clone from these sets can currently do so by emailing the manager. In the near future we will have an electronic request form on the website. We will send out your clone as a jab culture via express post within a week of request.



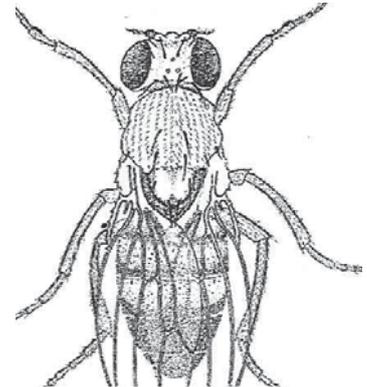
Note: The BDGP DGC Releases comprise clones drawn from the EST collection that have undergone further analysis by the BDGP, identifying them as potential full length clones.

The BDGP Gold Collection is a subset of the DGC. This collection is the most highly validated set of cDNAs available. We are not planning to hold this set at this stage.

Until Next Time

OzDros is in the early phase of its establishment, but we now expect it to develop rapidly. To help us provide you with the best service, we need your help and input.

If you have any suggestions or queries please contact the manager. For example, we are considering holding common cloning vectors. If you think this would be a good service please let us know.



OzDros

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Visit our website:
www.ozdros.com

OzDros is a NH&MRC sponsored national research support facility that is openly accessible to all Australian researchers who have completed access agreements.

OzDros is dedicated to providing the Australian research community with low cost, efficient and professional support for all your *Drosophila* needs.

For further information or enquiries, please email:

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If you do not wish to receive the Fly on the Wall newsletter, please send an email to narelle.tunstall@anu.edu.au with "Unsubscribe Newsletter" in the subject line.