



What is the WNPRC?

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.

UW-Madison is a leader in scholarship, research and teaching, with approximately 2,000 faculty, 17,300 staff, 9,400 graduate students, 2,700 professional students and 28,900 undergraduates. The research and total budgets, \$892 million and 2.3 billion, respectively, 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 Institutes of Health, which supports research, laboratories, animal services and staff at the Primate Center;

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- A center of approximately 200 employees and 250 doctoral level scientists who fund their research through competitive grants totaling about \$26 million per year.

The WNPRC cares for approximately 1,000 rhesus macaques, 200 common marmosets, and 200 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 and officially opened on April 27, 1964. 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. Primate Center scientists also learned in the 1990s how HIV infects the host and escapes the immune system, knowledge critical for vaccine development.

In the past 10 years, the WNPRC has established an AIDS vaccine research laboratory in the University of Wisconsin's Research Park, built the nation's first Internet Primate Aging Database, launched the Pre-clinical 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 WNPRC also occupies space in the Wisconsin Institutes for Medical Research, with its new imaging, research and animal care facilities.

The center has supported groundbreaking studies on the health benefits of calorie restriction, causes of polycystic ovary disease, improved techniques for noninvasive 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 Groups

Energy Metabolism and Chronic Diseases

Chronic disease and aging research, with an emphasis on the genetic, cellular, and whole animal effects of caloric restriction (CR), as well as excess caloric intake resulting in obesity and metabolic syndrome; diabetes mellitus, osteoporosis, and new studies on post menopausal hormone changes and metabolic disease risks.

Global Infectious Disease

Transmission and pathogenesis of Simian Immunodeficiency Virus (SIV), influenza, Dengue, viral escape, vaccine development, MHC-defined animals, influenza, and identification of new viruses with zoonotic and/or pandemic potential.

Neuroscience

Preclinical Parkinson's disease research, translational studies of glaucoma, as well as stress, anxiety, and depression, and basic studies of central nervous system mechanisms controlling fertility, puberty, menopause, and body weight, and neuroendocrine regulation of reproductive and social behaviors.

Regenerative and Reproductive Medicine

Embryonic/pluripotent stem cell biology including cellular therapies for hematologic, cardiovascular, and neurodegenerative diseases, organ transplant tol-

erance, stem cell-based therapies for AIDS; assisted reproductive technologies (ART) for NHP transgenesis, maternal-fetal health including pregnancy loss and poor outcomes, intrauterine environment in metabolic and reproductive epigenetic programming, endometriosis, and polycystic ovary disease (PCOS.)

The Center also supports conservation studies on reproduction, habitat protection, feeding, and population distribution in wild and endangered primates. For a list of Primate Center accomplishments in our 50-year history, please see our Discoveries Fact Sheet.

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.

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