

# Frequently Asked Questions about the SRG Rat

## What is the SRG Rat?

The Sprague Dawley-Rag2<sup>tm2hera</sup> Il2rg<sup>tm1hera</sup>/Hera rat strain is commonly referred to as SRG Rat or OncoRat<sup>®</sup> is a Sprague Dawley background containing a double knockout of the Rag2 and Il2rg genes. The combined mutations result in a loss of mature B, T, and NK cells and the most severely immunodeficient rat model on the market.

## What services does Hera provide?

Hera provides in vivo contract research (CRO) services in the SRG rat and immunodeficient mouse strains including xenograft/PDX studies, metabolism, toxicology studies with a variety of treatment routes and endpoints on preclinical small molecules, antibodies, cell and gene therapies, and medical devices. Find out how we can use a combination of endpoints to get the most relevant data out of your animal studies. All in vivo studies are conducted in our state-of-the-art facility located in Lexington, KY.

## Can the SRG rats be humanized?

Yes, being devoid of B-cells, T-cell, and NK-cells, the SRG rat has demonstrated the ability to accept and engraft a variety of human tissues including xenografts, PDX, thymus, and hepatocytes which can be used to 'humanized' the immune system or the liver. Immuno-oncology studies in PBMC or CD34+ humanized SRG rats are possible and will be provided by Hera starting mid-2020.

## Can I purchase SRG Rats for my research?

The SRG rat can be purchased directly from Hera. Our production colony, from which we provide rats to our clients, is maintained in isolators at the Charles River Labs (CRL) GEMs facility in Wilmington, MA and was recently rederived onto the highest health standard CRL provides (VAF-elite), ensuring our animals will exceed any import requirements of your institution. Health reports available upon request.

## Do the SRG rats require a special diet or housing conditions?

SRG rats should be housed in IVC cages or a barrier facility, if possible. Their immunodeficient phenotype leads to a susceptibility to opportunistic pathogens which should be taken into consideration, as is the case with any immunodeficient strain. Other than that, the SRG does not require any special diet or care and maintenance procedures. Standard irradiated rodent chow is used.

## What is the pricing and conditions for use?

Inquire for pricing. Hera can provide bulk pricing and discounts for non-profit/academic users. Hera requires all customers to agree to the terms of the Conditions for Use Agreement prior to shipping the animals. The animals will be provided at 4-6 weeks old at the time of shipment, although Hera can accommodate requests for any age animals. Contact us to discuss your specific research requirements.

## Can the SRG rat be used for continuous IV dosing?

Hera can provide SRG rats that have undergone implantation of Vascular Access Buttons (VABs) and other surgeries conducted by Charles River surgeons at their facility prior for studies conducted by Hera or direct shipment to your facility. The larger size of the SRG rat makes it an ideal host for implanted pumps (Alzet or Iprecio). Contact us for more details and pricing.

## How soon can I receive SRG rats?

The SRG rats will be provided within 1-3 weeks after placing your order. If there is limited availability or for large requests, additional time may be required. Animals are reserved on a first-come first-serve basis, and upon placing the order your estimated arrival date will be provided and updated accordingly.

For more information, please visit our website at <https://www.herabiolabs.com/srg-rat-for-oncology/> to learn more.



## Contact Us to Learn More

If you would like to explore how the SRG Rat can help accelerate your oncology research, please contact us at [services@herabiolabs.com](mailto:services@herabiolabs.com) or 859-414-0648.