Version: November 2022

**Preclinical Imaging Center of the UZH/ETHZ at Hönggerberg**

**PROJECT INITIATION FORM**

1. **Scope**

The preclinical imaging center (PIC) consolidates several research groups devoted to development of novel structural, functional, metabolic and molecular imaging methods. The PIC possesses state-of-the-art infrastructure for *in vivo* imaging in mice and rats, including an independent IVC rodent housing facility located within the same hygiene area. Our multi-modality imaging capacities include advanced magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), multi-spectral optoacoustic tomography (MSOT), fluorescence and multi-photon microscopes, functional ultrasound and more. The facilities are fully equipped with advanced animal surgical tools, anesthesia systems, physiology monitoring suites, high-end computational resources, and other key equipment for small animal imaging research.

As part of its research framework, PIC provides access to high-end 7T and 9.4T small-animal MRI scanners with cryogenic RF coils on a collaborative basis.

1. **Target users**

Our partners primarily originate from the biomedical research community within USZ, UZH and ETH Zurich and, to some extent, from academic and research institutions outside Zurich as well as industrial partners.

1. **The PIC responsibilities**

In a typical collaborative project, PIC would take care of animal housing and preparation for imaging, design of optimal data acquisition protocols. Level of involvement in the data analysis depends on the particular partner’s skillset and is determined on a case by case basis.

1. **Responsibilities of the collaboration partner**

The collaboration partner normally covers biological aspects behind the study, e.g. purchase/ establishment of the disease model, animal treatments, design of contrast agents etc. If necessary, PIC may help with writing a grant proposal covering the proposed imaging studies. The partner is also responsible to arrange for a valid animal license from the Canton of Zurich covering the planned *in vivo* studies. PIC will then provide details of imaging procedures to be included in the license.

1. **Small animal MRI user fees**

As of January 1st 2020, contributions of PIC partners to the operational costs of the MRI (user fees) are listed below. The fees are solely used to partially defer costs associated with the core technical and biological personnel supporting the studies, fulfill requirements for the strict animal care regulations, and bolster the high standards and further development of our core infrastructure. Billing cycle is usually done on a quarterly basis unless agreed otherwise. The hourly fees for the various user groups are listed below:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| User group | Hourly rate (imaging/training/animal handling) \* |
| Core (long-term) PIC users | CHF 50.00/h |
| Members of UZH, ETHZ, University Hospitals \*\* | CHF 100.00/h |
| Academic groups (non UZH, ETH) | CHF 150.00/h |
| Industrial partners | CHF 275.00/h |

\* 50% rates apply to overnight and weekend scans of ex vivo samples and phantoms

\*\* USZ, Balgrist, Kispi, PUK

1. **Project initiation**

Collaborative projects are initiated in a brief introductory meeting. To streamline the process, please fill out the details below and send the completed form to Prof. Daniel Razansky ([daniel.razansky@uzh.ch](mailto:daniel.razansky@uzh.ch)) with cc to Dr. Hikari Yoshihara ([hyoshihara@ethz.ch](mailto:hyoshihara@ethz.ch)). Details of the project are then clarified in a joint meeting/presentation, where responsible persons and their level of effort are allocated and detailed experimental protocol and schedules are agreed upon.

**Project title :**

**Scientific background (in a few sentences) with representative reference/s :**

**Main objective/s (in a few sentences) :**

**Anticipated duration :**

**Special experimental requirements (e.g. biosafety level 2, inverted cycle etc):**

**Funding for the imaging studies is already available:** Yes  will be applied for

**Principal Investigator :**

**Project Leader/s :**

**Date/place :**