MISSION: To facilitate research on vector-borne pathogens that are classified as being of national importance with respect to public health in the U.S.

The Insectary Services Division provides expert consultation and state-of-the-art equipment for research into arthropod-borne biothreat agents and emerging infectious diseases. The division facilitates research by biodefense investigators who require high and maximum containment for studies with arthropod vectors by either providing expertise and/or training for the researchers’ personnel. The division also serves as a readily available advisory resource to national and local agencies in the event of a health emergency.

The priorities of the division are to facilitate research on vector-borne pathogens that are classified as being of national importance with respect to public health in the U.S. These priorities are not static and may change in response to events such as the introduction of a pathogen into the U.S. Under such circumstances, investigators may have to cease their work in order to accommodate the rapid refocusing of research to the new priority.

Key Functions Of The Core:
• Development of safe, secure facilities, techniques and protocols to work with pathogens in arthropod vectors
• Training of personnel (UTMB & others) at BSL3 (and BSL4 when appropriate)
• Infection of arthropods
• Maintenance and containment of infected arthropods
• Analysis of infected arthropods
• Safe disposal of infected arthropods

Facilities, Equipment & Services:
• The core provides a safe, secure environment to maintain arthropods infected with BSL3 agents.
• The facilities were designed and are operated by highly qualified personnel.
• State-of-the art equipment is available to train scientists from UTMB and other approved institutions in arthropod maintenance, containment, infection and analysis procedures.
• Studies can include basic vector biology, vector competence, molecular virology, electron microscopy, immunological and vaccine evaluation techniques, etc.
• Division staff will provide advice on facility design and operations, and will provide materials/reagents and protocols to approved researchers from other institutes. Staff is also able to train individuals to laboratory colonize mosquitoes and ticks.

MOSQUITO SPECIES AVAILABLE
- Aedes aegypti Galveston
- Aedes aegypti Iqutos
- Aedes aegypti Thailand
- Aedes albopictus Galveston
- Aedes albopictus La Reunion
- Aedes albopictus Thailand
- Aedes albopictus Venezuela
- Aedes taeniorhynchus Florida
- Aedes taeniorhynchus Galveston
- Anopheles gambiae
- Culex pipiens quinquefasciatus
- Culex tarsalis
- Culex taeniopus
- Culiseta melanura

TICK SPECIES AVAILABLE
- Amblyomma americanum
- Amblyomma imitator
- Ixodes ovatus
- Ixodes persulcatus
- Ixodes scapularis Wikel
- Dermacentor andersoni
- Dermacentor variabilis
- Dermacentor variabilis symbiont free
- Rhipicephalus sanguineus Portugal
- Rhipicephalus sanguineus North Carolina
- Rhipicephalus sanguineus Israel
- Hyalomma marginatum

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