

NIHS (National Institute of Health-Swiss)

Hsd:NIHS

The original colony of Swiss mice in the US started from nine mice brought from Lausanne, Switzerland, in 1926 by Clara Lynch. In 1932, to LT Webster, Rockefeller Institute. In 1935, to the National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, and these mice were the founders of the general-purpose colony N:GP(S). In 1936, the N:NIH(S) was derived from this colony. (Lynch, 1969; Rice and O'Brien, 1980).

From National Institutes of Health to Harlan Laboratories. Harlan became Envigo in 2015, then Envigo was acquired by Inotiv in 2021.

CHARACTERISTICS

The NIHS mouse is a Swiss mouse and used as a general-purpose stock. Used extensively for pertussis HSF testing.

Genetics

Coat color genes

- c : albino

Other genes are variable (outbred stock).

Carries the gene for short ear (*se*) and bent tail (*bt*).

Studies of genetic markers suggest the stock resembles other Swiss type mice, e.g. NIH Swiss Webster, the CD1 and the Swiss Webster from the Eppley Institute.

The genetic variance of Swiss mice has been described by Rice and O'Brien (1980) and Cui *et al* (1993).

Infection

Infectious leukemia virus never detected in this stock. NIHS mice are more sensitive to Mouse Adenovirus Type I (strain FL) infection than CD-1 Swiss mice (Kring *et al*, 1995). An incomplete proviral genome of endogenous mammary tumor virus (MMTV) was found in the Y-chromosome of NIHS mice (Nishikawa *et al*, 1991).

Life-span and spontaneous disease

Tumor incidence has been described by Sher (1974).

REFERENCES

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