

## VIBRATOME USER GUIDELINES

Mouse Histology & Phenotyping Laboratory  
Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center  
Northwestern Feinberg School of Medicine

- Only users trained or approved by MHPL staff may use the vibratome. Please contact MHPL if additional members of your lab require training to use the vibratome.
- **Specimens should not contain any biohazards, pathogens or radioisotopes. Please contact the [Biosafety Level 3 \(BSL3\) Lab](#) for sectioning specimens containing pathogens or biohazards.**
- **Unfixed animal specimens infected with adenovirus or lentivirus are not allowed. Please contact [BSL3 lab](#) for sectioning such specimens.**
- **Unfixed human or primate specimens may harbor pathogens that could pose risk to laboratory personnel and could be easily spread during vibratome operations. Such specimens are not allowed to be cut on the MHPL vibratome unless they are thoroughly fixed with aldehyde (10% neutral buffered formalin or 4% PFA).**
- Online reservations on NUCORE are required to use the vibratome. Please e-mail us once a reservation is made to avoid conflict with vibratome usage by MHPL staff:  
[mhpl@northwestern.edu](mailto:mhpl@northwestern.edu)
- Please sign in and out on the logbook for the instrument.
- **Reservations can be made between 9:30 am and 4:30 pm, Monday-Friday, excluding official holidays.**
- **Vibratome users are expected to bring the following items with them:**
  - **Vibratome Blades (e.g., Feather Double Edge Razor Blade, Electron Microscopy Sciences, Cat# 72002-01)**
  - **Brushes**
  - **Forceps**
  - **Acrylic Glue**
  - **Buffers**
  - **Sample Embedding Molds**
  - **Biohazard bag for discarded biological specimens (not to be left at MHPL after vibratome session is finished)**
- After finishing your vibratome session:
  - Turn off the main switch on the instrument.
  - Remove the blade and dispose safely.
  - Pull off the ice tray and buffer tray off the dovetail guide and dispose the contents.
  - Remove and clean the specimen plate. Using a blade, remove any residual specimen or acrylate glue attached on the specimen plate.
  - Rinse the ice tray, buffer tray, and specimen plate with deionized or distilled water and store to dry on the vibratome table.
  - **Please take your specimens back with you along with the biohazard bag for discarded tissues. Do not leave them in the room or dispose tissues in the regular rubbish bin.**
  - Lock the room after use.
  - **Please clean up the workspace after yourself.**
  - Lock the room after use and return the key (if provided) to MHPL staff.

## **Vibratome Self-Service Liability Waiver**

**Mouse Histology & Phenotyping Laboratory (MHPL)**  
**Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center**  
**Northwestern University**  
**710 N. Fairbanks Ct., OLSON 8-333**

### **Purpose:**

This waiver is intended to ensure that individuals who choose to operate the vibratome independently understand the risks involved and agree to assume responsibility for their own safety and any potential damages.

### **Acknowledgment of Risk:**

I, the undersigned, acknowledge that operating a vibratome involves sharp blades and moving parts that pose a risk of injury if not used properly. I understand that improper use may result in cuts, lacerations, or other injuries.

### **Training Requirement:**

I confirm that I have received adequate training in the safe operation of the vibratome and understand the standard operating procedures, including blade handling, sample preparation, and equipment maintenance.

### **Assumption of Responsibility:**

I agree to operate the vibratome in accordance with all safety guidelines and protocols. I accept full responsibility for any injury to myself or others, and for any damage to equipment or samples resulting from my use of the vibratome.

### **Waiver of Liability:**

I hereby release and hold harmless MHPL, its employees, affiliates, and representatives from any and all liability, claims, or demands arising from my use of the vibratome, whether caused by negligence or otherwise.

### **Indemnification:**

I agree to indemnify and defend the Mouse Histology & Phenotyping Laboratory against any claims, damages, or expenses arising from my use of the vibratome.

### **Microtome Self-Service User**

<b>Full Name (PRINT CLEARLY)</b>	
<b>Signature</b>	
<b>Date Signed</b>	

### **Witness/MHPL Staff**

<b>Full Name of MHPL Trainer (PRINT CLEARLY)</b>	
<b>Signature</b>	
<b>Date</b>	