

*Welcome to the webinar:*

# Refinements in Minipig Inhalation Toxicology

*26 October 2021*

*Guest speaker: Alice McNamara | Labcorp, UK*

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- Please ask your questions in the questions/chat section and we will follow up in the Q&A sessions following the presentation.
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- Presentation slides and a recording of the webinar will be shared within 1-2 days via email.
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Alice McNamara

# Refinements in Minipig Inhalation Toxicology

26 Oct 2021

**labcorp**  
Drug Development

# Refinements in Pig Inhalation Toxicology

## Overview

- Why inhalation?
- Why pigs?
- Challenges
- Refinements
  - Training
  - Physical environment
  - Safety monitoring
- Future



# Why Inhalation Toxicology?

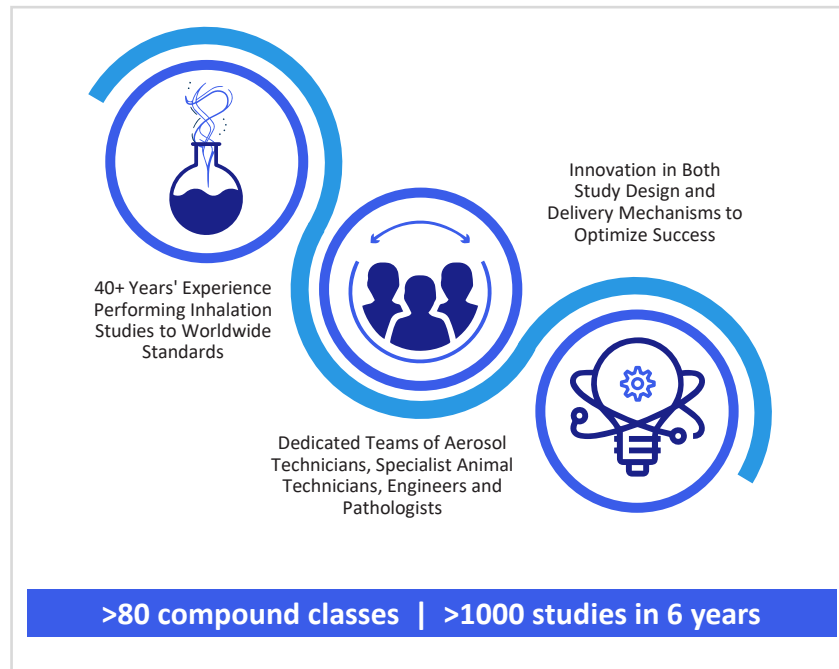
## Safety assessment

- Clinical delivery of respiratory pharmaceuticals, e.g.:
  - COPD
  - Asthma
  - Cystic fibrosis
  - COVID
- Clinical delivery of systemic pharmaceuticals, e.g.:
  - Multiple sclerosis
  - Migraine
  - Parkinson's
  - Anxiety
- Unintended exposure during manufacturing, handling or use of chemicals and agrochemicals

# Inhalation Toxicology

## Our capabilities:

- Acute to carcinogenicity
- Embryofetal to two-generation reproductive studies
- Studies with specific approaches and dosing up to 24 hours/day
- Cardiotoxicity to assessing anesthetic potential
- All work is performed in accordance with the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 (amended in 2012 to conform with European Directive 2010/63/EU)
- Ethical review of all project licences by internal Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body and UK government Animals in Science Regulation Unit



# Why Minipigs?

Ethical factors

Scientific factors



# Challenges

- Developing background data
- Pig welfare (and compliance)
- Equipment
- Pig safety

# Developing Background Data

Respiratory plethysmography





# Pig Welfare (and compliance)

- Working with conscious pigs is essential to allow 1 hour+, repeat dose inhalation exposure in large numbers of pigs
  - Welfare
  - Replication of intended dose routes
  - Efficiency
- Training
- Environment
- Equipment

# Training

- 28 day+ training programme
  - Longer doses need longer training periods
- Socialisation in pen
- Harness and lead training
- Walking to dose suite, feeding treats from mask
- Bench restraint
- Mask with air
  - Slow escalation to eventual dose length

# Key Training is Before Mask

## Animals walk voluntarily to dosing suite

- Create positive associations with:
  - Staff
  - Harness
  - Dosing suite
  - Mask



Animals will  
voluntarily walk onto  
dosing “bench”



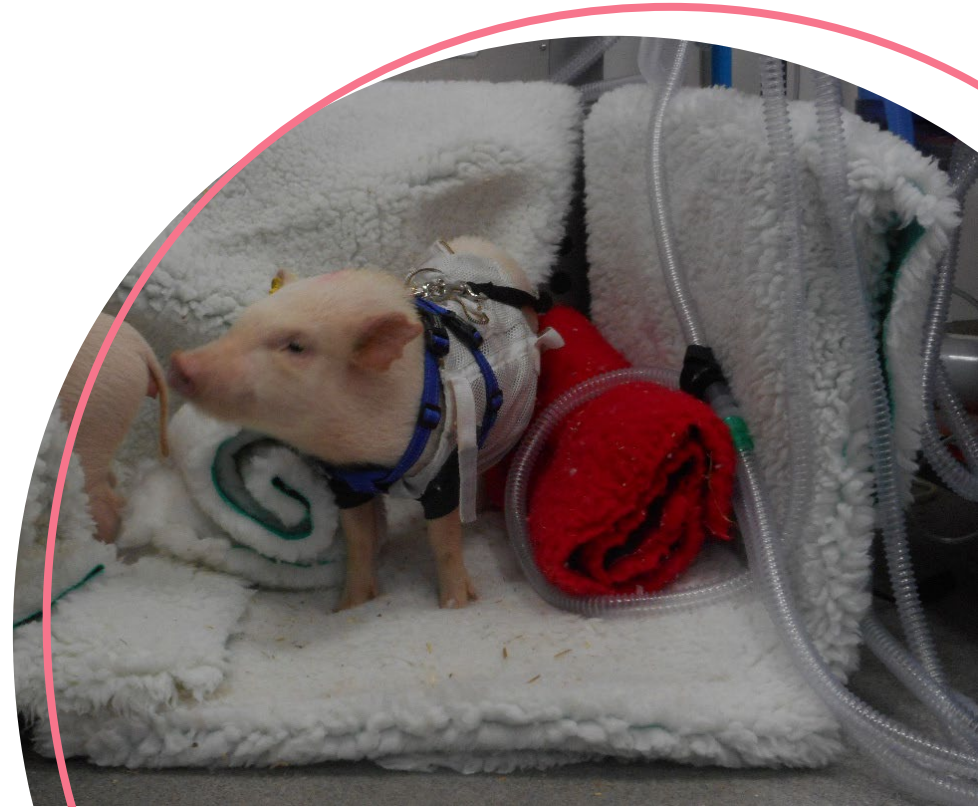
# Physical Environment

- Transport
- Dose suite
- Mask

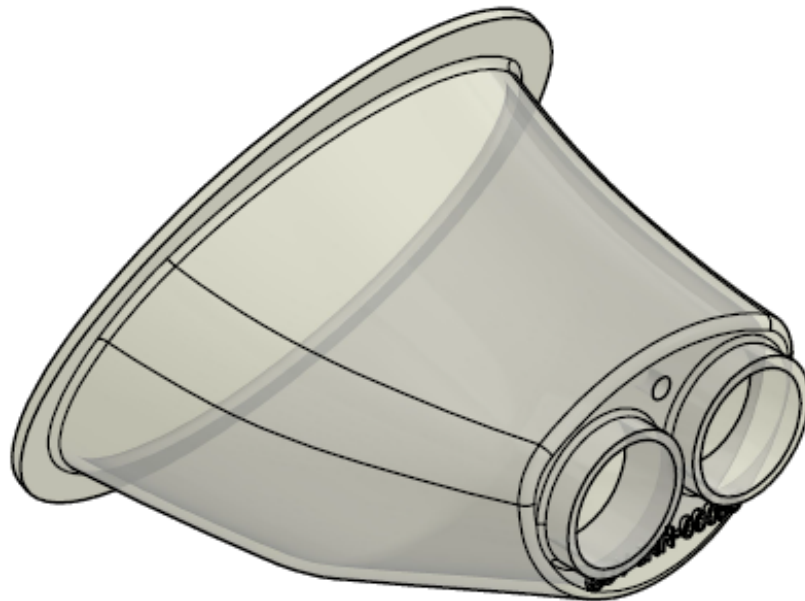
# Dose Suite

## Optimizing the room for pig dosing

- Consistent
- On floor
- Surface substrate
- Quiet but not silent
- Light levels
- In groups where possible
- Comfort bolsters
- Every pig is different



# Computer-Aided Design and 3D Printing



# Masks in Use





# Safety Monitoring

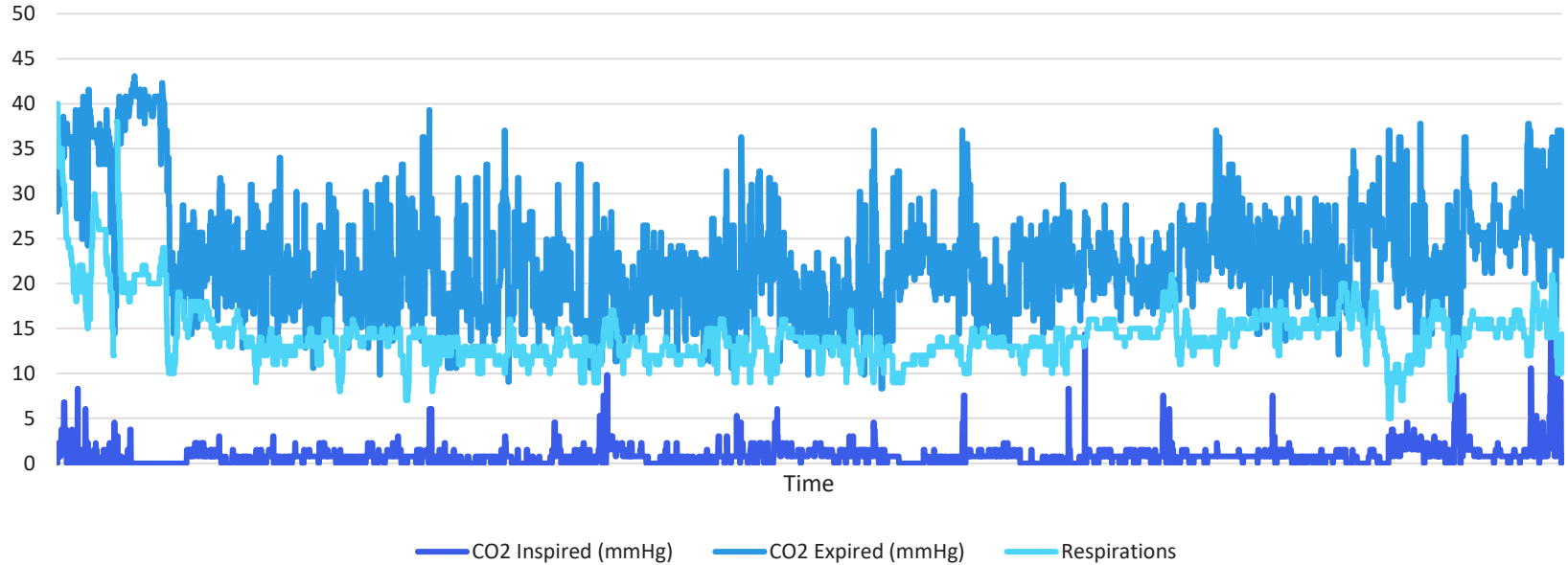
- Constant supervision
- Behavioural scoring
- Capnography

0	No observation of aversive behaviours, e.g., trying to remove mask or leave bench
1	Occasional observation of aversive behaviours, e.g., trying to remove mask or leave bench
2	Occasional to intermittent observation of aversive behaviours, e.g., trying to remove mask or leave bench
3	Intermittent observation of aversive behaviours, e.g., trying to remove mask or leave bench
4	Intermittent to repeated observation of aversive behaviours, e.g., trying to remove mask or leave bench
5	Repeated observation of aversive behaviours, e.g., trying to remove mask or leave bench

Capnography provides  
real-time data about  
respiratory rate, depth  
and quality



## Example Respiratory Data



# Future

- Constant cycle of refinement
  - Technician-led AWERB subgroups for dose route (inhalation) and species (minipig)
- Longer term studies
- Different study types, e.g., dose modalities

Thanks to all the staff at Labcorp Huntingdon who have collaborated on this project, including:

Dog & Minipig Toxicology team

Aerosol Technology team

Inhalation Engineering team

Cardiovascular Safety Pharmacology team

Study Management team

Animal Welfare & Veterinary Services team

