



ATCC Backgrounder

ATCC, the premier global biological materials resource and standards organization serves and supports the scientific community with industry-standard products and innovative solutions. With the world's largest and most diverse collection of human, animal, and plant cell lines, as well as molecular genomic tools, microorganisms, and biological products, ATCC is a trusted biological resource for the worldwide research community. Together, the people of ATCC share in its mission to acquire, authenticate, preserve, develop, and distribute biological materials and information for the advancement of scientific knowledge.

ATCC is a non-profit organization with headquarters in Manassas, VA.

History

ATCC was established in 1925 when a committee of scientists recognized a need for a central collection of microorganisms that would serve scientists all over the world. The early years were spent at the McCormick Institute in Chicago until the organization moved to Georgetown University in Washington, DC in 1937. As research in the biosciences expanded, ATCC began to diversify its holdings, and as the collections grew ATCC occupied a series of sites, each providing more storage space. ATCC moved to its current state-of-the-art building in 1998.

Facilities

ATCC activities are housed in a Manassas, Virginia facility. The 126,000 sq. ft. building is monitored constantly by on-site security staff, and electric power is backed up by on-site generators. The repository portion of the facility occupies 18,000 sq. ft. and contains 200 freezers to store biomaterials, including vapor-phase liquid nitrogen freezers, mechanical freezers and cold rooms. The repository space is complemented by 35,000 sq. ft. of laboratory space.

User Communities

The community of users of ATCC products and services is international, and includes researchers in academia and government, as well as private industry. Over 80% of ATCC's customer base represents academia and industry – about 40% each from universities and private industry. Government customers comprise 6% of the organization's total. Three-quarters of ATCC customers hail from the U.S., while the remaining 25% are international customers. ATCC maintains a network of authorized distributors around the world. Among the industries represented in ATCC's customer base are the pharmaceutical, biotechnology, agricultural and diagnostics industries, as well as food, beverage and cosmetics makers and reference and testing laboratories, among others.

Collection Holdings

ATCC's collections include a wide range of biological materials for research, including cell lines, molecular genomics tools, microorganisms and bioproducts. The organization holds a collection of more than 3,400 human, animal and plant cell lines. ATCC's microorganism collection includes more than 18,000 strains of bacteria, 2,000 different types of animal viruses and 1,000 plant viruses. In addition, ATCC maintains collections of protozoans, yeasts and fungi with over 49,000 yeast and fungi strains and 2,000 strains of protists.

ISO Accreditation

ATCC is an ISO 9001:2008 certified, ISO 17025:2005 and ISO Guide 34:2009 accredited organization. [ISO accreditations](#) have allowed ATCC to evolve from a traditional culture collection to Biological Resource Center with an infrastructure that supports the future of life science and biotechnology.

Quality Program

ATCC is committed to provide quality products and services to the life science community. The commitment includes the following certifications and accreditations:

- [ISO 9001:2008](#) Certified
- [ISO/IEC 17025:2005](#) Accredited
- [ISO Guide 34:2009](#) Accredited
- An experienced Quality management team who ensure that the acquisition, authentication, preservation, development and distribution of biological materials are being performed under, and conform to a documented quality management system.

To learn more, please visit us online at www.atcc.org or contact ATCC technical service representatives toll free in the US at 1-800-638-6597; for international inquiries, please call +1-703-365-2700.