What We Do
The Animal Research and Immunology Core (ARIC) offers professional services (fee-based) for infectious disease studies, with an emphasis on those organisms requiring specialized biocontainment facilities. They also provide facilities and services to study microbial pathogenesis and host response to infections as well as to test new therapies against infectious diseases, including infectious disease research whose goals include the development of novel therapeutics, vaccines and diagnostic tools.

The ARIC strives to conduct animal research that is both safe and humane. The research and care of animals is overseen and approved by several groups at the University of Chicago: the Animal Resource Center, the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC), and the Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC). The Animal Resource Center is AAALAC accredited.

What makes ARIC so qualified?
ARIC personnel are/have:
- Highly educated
- Highly trained
- Select Agent Clearance
- BSL3/ABSL3 training
- Broad Category A-C agents expertise

Aerobiology Program
The ARIC aerobiology program utilizes a custom made Class III BSC with a 3 step HEPA filter system. It is an effective way to introduce the aerosol pathogens to the animal subjects.

ARIC’s Role in Emergency Response
In case of an event requiring the activation of an ERP, ARIC can provide:
- BSL3/ABSL3 space and/or BSL3 training
- Diagnostic/identification tools
- Virulence data
- Control strains
- Qualified manpower

The ARIC works in conjunction with the Great Lakes Regional Center of Excellence (GLRCE) and operates out of the Howard Taylor Ricketts Laboratory, at Argonne National Labs. The ARIC has access to 35,000 sq. ft. of workspace, which includes 4 BSL3 suites, 7 animal housing rooms, 2 procedure rooms, tissue processing room, and a custom aerobiology suite.