

**This document should be read in conjunction with the Florey OH&S Manual:  
<http://hfweb.hfi.unimelb.edu.au/>**

The Animal MRI Facility (aMRI Facility) has a 4.7T Telsa Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) scanner which uses a large magnet and radio waves to look at organs and structures inside an animal, or a sample. Under normal operating conditions the scanner is stable and safe.

However, magnetic fields emitted from the scanner are invisible causing a dangerous situation for operators or visitors within its immediate vicinity, and the potential to damage the scanner. These fields attract iron (ferromagnetic) objects, such as screwdrivers, and can cause them to move suddenly with great force posing a risk to the operator and the equipment. The magnetic field will pull on any iron object in the body, such as a cardiac pacemaker, or metal implant.

The outer perimeter of the accepted human safety exclusion zone for stray magnet fields from the 4.7T scanner is a cork line on the floor located immediately before the console desk in room B21, basement, Florey Neuroscience Institutes (FNI) Parkville.

It is vital that all metallic belongings, for example watches, jewellery, credit cards and coins, are removed prior to entering the scanner room/laboratory.

**ALL** visitors entering the scanner room/laboratory (room B21, basement, FNI Parkville) must be asked the following:

- ***Do you have a cardiac pacemaker?***
  - If yes, then it is unsafe for the visitor to enter the room under any circumstances.
- ***Do you have any metal implants, such as orthopaedic items?***
  - If yes, it is safe for the visitor to enter the room; however, they must speak to one of the Facility staff first.
- ***Do you have any animal allergies?***
  - If yes, then check which animal/s the visitor is allergic to. If the visitor is allergic to an animal that is scanned in the Facility, then he/she should not enter the room.

The safety of MRI with respect to pregnancy has not been established. As a precaution, women who are in the early stages of pregnancy are advised not to enter a magnetic field.

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