



**The University of Sydney & Royal Prince Alfred Hospital**  
**NEUROLOGY LABORATORY**

Level 7, Brain & Mind Centre, 94 Mallett St, Camperdown NSW 2050  
Tel: 02 9114 4280 Fax: 02 9114 4291 Email: [Neurology.lab@sydney.edu.au](mailto:Neurology.lab@sydney.edu.au)



**Protocol for Sending Nerve and Muscle Biopsies**

**Nerve Biopsy:** 3cm sural nerve is sufficient. Take care **not to crush or stretch** any part of the nerve with forceps.

**Muscle Biopsy:** It is important that no local anaesthetic comes into contact with the muscle sampled. The specimen needs to be a minimum of 1 cm<sup>3</sup>. Fascia may be included if there is a need for examination.

**Handling and Transport:** The specimen should be wrapped in gauze slightly moistened with Normal Saline, and placed in a water-tight specimen jar labelled with patient's name & DOB, biopsy site(s), and the time and date of specimen collection. Do not immerse specimen in saline or fixative. The specimen jar should be transported with **wet ice (do not freeze the specimen)** in an esky to the address below.

**Information required:**

1. 24-hour advance notice of biopsy time and date. Specimen should arrive at the lab by **3:30 pm Mon-Fri on the same day of biopsy**. If the biopsy procedure has been cancelled, please notify the laboratory.
2. Fill out the NEUROMUSCULAR PATHOLOGY REQUEST form, in particular the followings:
  - Precise identification of specimen eg. site(s) of muscle or nerve, right or left.
  - All patient details including **Billing Classification**. For a public outpatient, please fill out the MEDICARE ASSIGNMENT section with patient's signature.
  - Referring doctors (to whom report may be sent) and their **provider number, phone & fax numbers**.
  - Relevant **clinical information** and test results including **NCS and EMG**.
  - Email or fax the form to the laboratory.

**Address for sending specimen:**

Dr. Min-Xia Wang  
Neurology Laboratory  
Rm702, Brain & Mind Centre, 94 Mallett Street  
Camperdown NSW 2050

**Delivery Dock at back of the building on Church Street (circled on location map)**

Ph: 02 9114 4280 or 02 9114 4281  
Fax: 02 9114 4291  
Email: [Neurology.lab@sydney.edu.au](mailto:Neurology.lab@sydney.edu.au)