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Charles River celebrates 75 years

This year, Charles River Laboratories is celebrating its milestone 75th anniversary. Seventy-five years ago, Dr. Henry Foster, fresh out of veterinary school, purchased several thousand Sprague-Dawley rats from a farm in Virginia and started breeding them on the second floor of a Boston area loft. His business quickly grew into the largest supplier of research animals in the world, and the largest provider of rodent health monitoring services.

Today, Charles River Laboratories is much more than that. It is Fortune 500 company that in addition to being a global provider of research models for medical testing, also delivers expansive, soup-to-nuts contract drug discovery and safety assessment services, as well as manufacturing support from biologics production to microbial testing to generating chicken eggs for vaccines. Like the rest of the world, Charles River had to adjust to a new normal when COVID threatened the world. By now almost every site at Charles River has contributed to COVID research, from the early days of detection and protection to current vaccine research, all while working to keep employees safe. Over time, Charles River sites have contributed to an increasing percentage of the new drugs approved yearly by regulatory authorities. In 2021, the percentage was 86%.

Our Edinburgh site is celebrating this momentous milestone with a staff BBQ and the burying of a time capsule. Charles River staff worldwide are also enjoying an extra day of annual leave, in recognition of our hard work and dedication to the organisation.

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