Operating Instructions for the Vibratome

1. Trim your specimens and glue it to the specimen mount with "super glue"
2. Chloroform rinse and injector style blade and place in knife assembly by gently pressing down on the knife retaining wire
3. Place specimen and mount in vise stage of microtome and tighten finger tight.
4. Fill specimen bath with 500mL of the chilled buffer of choice (usually PBS)
5. Turn lamp on by lifting the power switch up
6. Check the sectioning parameters of the instrument. A general set up would be amplitude of 8, a speed of 2 and a knife angle of 20°. The knife angle is checked by placing the blade indicator over the knife holder rod and taking a reading with the knife holder pointer. The blade angle indicator should rest on the front of the bath. The knife angle is <u>the only</u> adjustment where tools are necessary. If problems exist, consult a CMRF staff member.
7. Adjust the height of the specimen with the section thickness control so that the blade just touches the specimen. Read the caution sheet on stage height adjustment. Excessive travel of the stage up or down will cause severe damage to the instrument.
8. Advancement of the knife is performed by moving the direction toggle switch up. If this switch is held all the way up, the blade advances quickly. Release the switch and the blade travels at the speed selected on the speed dial. Once the section is cut, the blade can be reset by moving the direction toggle switch down. After the blade is retracted behind the specimen, move the section thickness control clockwise the desired section thickness and activate the direction toggle switch up to start forward travel of the blade.
9. When sectioning is complete, remove specimen blade and buffer. Rinse out the bath and knife holder with 500 mL of DDH2O. This is very important to prevent corrosion from the precipitation of buffer salts. Wipe the instrument dry with Kimwipes. Recover the instrument. Sign up on the sheet for the length of time the unit was used.

You must have completed a CMRF Project Form with the Business Office
Questions: 85 EMRB