



## **Institutional Biosafety Guidance and Resource for Researchers**

### **a. Institutional Biosafety Committee**

CUNY Researchers engaged in research utilizing recombinant or synthetic nucleic acid molecules must contact their college Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) for information on local policies and procedures to ensure compliance with NIH Guidelines and all other applicable laws and regulations.

Researchers who engage in activities involving infectious agents, other hazardous agents (e.g. carcinogens), radioactive materials, or transgenic animals are required to contact the IBC Chair and the Office of Research Compliance for more information.

### **b. Select Agents and Toxins**

Select agents and toxins are those biological agents and toxins that are identified as having the potential to pose a severe threat to public health and safety, animal health and safety, plant health and safety, or to the safety of animal or plant products. Select biological agents or toxins are listed in the following regulations:

US Department of Agriculture regulations at 7 CFR 331.3 and 9 CFR 121.3

US Department of Health and Human Services regulations at 42 CFR 73.3

Possession, use, or transfer of select agents or toxins requires prior registration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service of the US Department of Agriculture, or both. Researchers who plan to work with any select agents or toxins are required to contact the Queens College Director of Environmental Health and Safety prior to possessing, using, or transferring select agents or toxins.

Researchers should refer to the Federal Select Agent Program for additional information: <https://www.selectagents.gov/>

### **c. Dual Use Research of Concern**

The United States Government has issued a Dual Use Research of Concern policy that establishes regular reviews of federally funded life sciences research that, based on current understanding, can be reasonably anticipated to provide knowledge, information, products, or technologies that could be directly misapplied to pose a significant threat with broad potential consequences to public health and safety, agricultural crops and other plants, animals, the environment, material or national security.

Federal regulations require ongoing institutional review and oversight for such research. Each CUNY college administration is responsible for ensuring compliance with this policy. College administration may contact the research compliance staff in the CUNY Central Office of Research for guidance.



View the Dual Use Research of Concern Policy here: <https://osp.od.nih.gov/biotechnology/dual-use-research-of-concern/>

#### **d. NIH Guidelines**

The NIH Guidelines for Research Involving Recombinant or Synthetic Nucleic Acid Molecules (NIH Guidelines) detail safety practices and containment procedures for basic and clinical research involving recombinant or synthetic nucleic acid molecules, including the creation and use of organisms and viruses containing recombinant or synthetic nucleic acid molecules.

The NIH Guidelines require that any significant problems, violations, or any significant research-related accidents and illnesses be reported to the Office of Science Policy (OSP) within 30 days. Appendix G of the NIH Guidelines details certain types of accidents that must be reported on a more expedited basis. Spills and accidents in BL2 laboratories resulting in an overt exposure must be immediately reported to the OSP (as well as the IBC). Spills or accidents occurring in high containment (BL3 or BL4) laboratories resulting in an overt or potential exposure must be immediately reported to OSP (as well as the IBC and Safety Officer).

Completed reports may be sent to OSP via email at [NIHGuidelines@od.nih.gov](mailto:NIHGuidelines@od.nih.gov).

Queens College IRB Chair: Susan Rotenberg: [Susan.Rotenberg@qc.cuny.edu](mailto:Susan.Rotenberg@qc.cuny.edu)

Queens College Director of Environmental Health & Safety: William Graffeo  
[william.graffeo@qc.cuny.edu](mailto:william.graffeo@qc.cuny.edu) | (718) 997-2881

Click here to view the NIH Guidelines: <https://osp.od.nih.gov/biotechnology/nih-guidelines/>