

New Requirements for Some Biological Related Research

As the new academic year begins, I want to remind you that safety is our utmost priority at UCF and for the department of Environmental Health and Safety that means safety when handling research materials. That's why I am reminding you of a few important safety protocols and a new requirement in effect now to ensure UCF is meeting regulatory requirements.

If you are undertaking research with biomolecules, biopolymers, genetically modified materials, rDNA, bacteria, viruses, toxins, etc. which are natural or synthetic, you must adhere to the *NIH Guidelines for Research Involving Recombinant or Synthetic Nucleic Acid Molecules*.

In order to ensure compliance, and safeguard university-wide NIH funding opportunities, the EHS, in conjunction with the Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC), has created a Biological Agent Registration Application (BARA) form. At this time, all groups at all UCF campus locations working with the below listed biological materials must submit a BARA form for each project covering all materials within their possession for IBC review and compliance determination before work can begin or continue.

Biological materials subject to review by the IBC include:

- Bacteria, viruses, viral vectors, fungi, prions
- Human/Non-human primate cell lines, tissues, or blood products
- Animal cell lines, tissues, or blood products
- Biological toxins
- Recombinant DNA (rDNA) or Synthetic Nucleic Acids
- Plants - exotic, those expressing toxins or poisons, or modified with any of the above listed materials
- Administration of biological materials to live animals (vertebrate or invertebrate)

To clarify, any faculty or staff member planning to utilize biological materials for research and/or teaching activities on campus must complete the BARA form found on the <http://www.ehs.ucf.edu/EHSforms> . A signed, hard copy must be submitted to the University Biosafety Officer at the EHS Department (+3500), and one electronic application sent to researchsafety@ucf.edu .

At the time of BARA submission, the Biosafety Officer and the Chair of the IBC will conduct an initial application assessment to determine if the work is exempt from NIH guidelines or if additional information is needed prior to submission for full committee review.

Failure to comply with the above procedures may result in access to laboratory space being temporarily suspended until the BARA review process has been completed.

For additional questions or assistance in completing the application, reach out to the EHS Office and the University Biosafety Officer at researchsafety@ucf.edu.

Liz

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