Introduction

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) have established strict guidelines on the proper use and disposal of transgenic animals, plants and other forms of recombinant DNA (rDNA) in research. This document entitled NIH Guidelines for Research Involving Recombinant DNA Molecules (NIH Guidelines) outlines institutional and investigator responsibilities and can be accessed online at:


Compliance with NIH Guidelines

All NIH-funded projects involving rDNA must comply with NIH Guidelines. As per the NIH Guidelines, all non-NIH funded projects involving rDNA conducted at or sponsored by an institution that receives NIH funding must comply with NIH guidelines.

Failure to follow NIH guidelines can result in the suspension, limitation, or termination of NIH funds for all rDNA research at the University. In addition, any intentional failure to comply has the potential to be defined as academic misconduct as outlined by University policy.

As an NIH-funded institution, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign has developed both a policy and a protocol, outlined in this fact sheet, through which investigators may obtain institutional authorization to work with recombinant DNA. As an investigator working with recombinant DNA materials, it is your responsibility to meet these requirements.

University of Illinois Policy on Recombinant DNA Research

It is the policy of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign that all research conducted on the campus or sponsored by the University involving recombinant DNA must receive approval from the Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) prior to the start of any work. Although some projects will qualify as exempt from the NIH Guidelines, all projects that involve recombinant DNA must be registered. Research projects will be assessed by the IBC on an individual basis.

University of Illinois Protocol for Institutional Approval

You must register your research project with the IBC to initiate the approval process. The Biological Safety Section (BSS) of the Division of Research Safety coordinates project registration. Registration forms or further information about the registration process may be obtained on the DRS website at: http://www.drs.uiuc.edu/bss/ibc.htm. If you have previously registered your project, you are required to update registration information whenever there are changes in the facilities, personnel, and experimental protocols associated with the project.

Disposal of Recombinant DNA Materials

University Policy requires that recombinant DNA materials must be inactivated to prevent any accidental release. Depending upon the material, autoclave treatment, chemical treatment, or incineration may be employed for inactivation. There are no exceptions to this policy without prior notification and approval by the Institutional Biosafety Committee. If you have questions regarding proper disposal, please contact BSS at 333-2755 or bss@uiuc.edu.

Transfer of Recombinant DNA and Transgenic Materials

Intra- or inter-facility transfers of rDNA and transgenic materials including transgenic animals and transgenic plants are prohibited without the written approval of the IBC.

Research-related Incidents

University policy requires that significant research-related incidents be reported immediately to the Institutional Biosafety Committee via the Biological Safety Section (BSS) of the Division of Research Safety. Such incidents include research-related accidents and illnesses as well as inadvertent release or improper disposal of biohazardous or recombinant DNA materials. BSS can be contacted at 333-2755 and bss@uiuc.edu.

Questions?

Contact the Division of Research Safety, Biological Safety Section (333-2755 or bss@uiuc.edu) or visit our website: http://www.drs.uiuc.edu/~bss/

Other Biosafety Facts Sheets are available from the Biological Safety Section at our website:
http://www.drs.uiuc.edu/bss/fact/index.htm

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