

Western Illinois University

Institutional Biosafety Committee Policy

Purpose: The purpose of this policy is to safeguard the health of the University community, the community-at-large, and to comply with applicable regulations.

Scope: This policy applies to the safe, legal, and ethical use of biological materials in Western Illinois University facilities.

Policy: Acting as an agent for the University in regulating work involving such materials, the Western Illinois University Institutional Biosafety Committee (WIU IBC) shall ensure that work in the following four categories (the “Covered Work”) meets all applicable safety, legal, and ethical requirements. Significant problems with, or violations of, the *NIH Guidelines* and any significant research related accidents or illnesses must be reported to the IBC. This information will then be reported to the Office of Biotechnology Activities within 30 days (or immediately depending on the nature of the incident).

WIU IBC Responsibilities:

- 1) **Work involving biological agents, including but not limited to, those agents in all risk groups defined in *Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories (BMBL)*:** The WIU IBC will monitor the use and safety practices surrounding certain pathogenic viral, bacterial, fungal or prion agents according to CDC and NIH guidelines set forth in the BMBL.
- 2) **Recombinant DNA (rDNA) as defined by the *NIH Guidelines for Research Involving Recombinant DNA Molecules (NIH Guidelines)*:** The NIH Guidelines for Research Involving Recombinant or Synthetic Nucleic Acid Molecules (NIH Guidelines) will be used by the WIU IBC to 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.
- 3) **Dual use research of concern as defined by the *National Science Advisory Board for Biosecurity [NSABB, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)]*:** Dual Use Research of Concern (DURC) is 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, materiel, or national security. The WIU IBC will aim to preserve the benefits of life sciences research while minimizing the risk of misuse of the knowledge, information, products, or technologies provided by such research according to NIH guidelines.

- 4) **Select agents and toxins (SAT), regulated either by DHHS or by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA):** In accordance with NIH guidelines, the WIU IBC will oversee the possession, use and transfer of biological select agents and toxins, which have the potential to pose a severe threat to public, animal or plant health or to animal or plant products.

WIU Faculty, Staff and Student Responsibilities:

All members of the University community using or generating biohazardous materials shall:

- 1) Be responsible for adherence to the prescribed safety requirements issued under this policy.
- 2) Immediately report any accidental spills, personnel contamination or violations to their PI and the WIU IBC.

Each PI shall:

- 1) Be responsible for all on-site training of new personnel in their laboratory with an emphasis on safe laboratory practices.
- 2) Be responsible for ensuring that all lab personnel know the appropriate procedure(s) to follow in case of emergency/exposure to biological hazards
- 3) Annually carry out a Self Audit
- 4) Be responsible for keeping all laboratory equipment certified (if applicable) and in safe working order.