

3.3 INSTITUTIONAL BIOSAFETY COMMITTEE

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3.4 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Everyone at the University is responsible for maintaining a safe and compliant environment. Some of the roles and responsibilities regarding biosafety are listed below.

3.4.1 Principal Investigator (PI)

PIs are responsible for implementing applicable biosafety procedures and practices in their laboratories. They must ensure that the appropriate equipment and facilities are available for laboratory staff members and that they are used properly. They must also arrange for appropriate employee training regarding the safe use of potentially hazardous biological agents and require that individuals handling BBPs receive the annual training mandated by OSHA. Each PI must be aware of the potential adverse health effects of the biological materials used in his or her laboratory, the appropriate biosafety level, and any other pertinent factors that will ensure the safety of laboratory staff members and the surrounding community.

In addition to the responsibilities of the PI above, when research involves the use of rDNA, the PI agrees to abide by the NIH Guidelines. Under the NIH Guidelines, the PI has a number of specific responsibilities. In particular, the Principal Investigator must (among other tasks):

- Ensure that no research is conducted with regulated biological materials prior to approval by the IBC.
- Report any significant problems, violations of the NIH Guidelines, or any research-related accidents, illnesses, or potential exposures to BSO at (202) 806-9710.
- Instruct and train laboratory staff in: (i) the practices and techniques required to ensure safety, and (ii) the procedures for dealing with accidents. This instruction should be specific to the agents and materials used in the research project.
- Make protocols describing the potential biohazards and safety precautions associated with the agents to be used available to laboratory staff.