

HOWARD UNIVERSITY

Office of Regulatory Research Compliance

April 10, 2023

MEMORANDUM

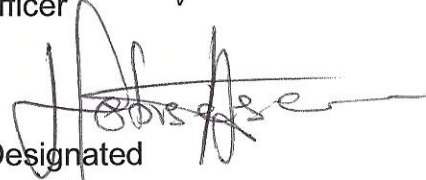
TO: Howard University (HU) Researchers and Staff

THROUGH: Anthony K. Wutoh, Ph.D., RPh.
Provost and Chief Academic Officer



4/10/23

FROM: Thomas Obisesan, MD, MPH
Associate Vice President and Designated
Institutional Official Office of Regulatory
Research Compliance (ORRC)



SUBJECT: Laboratory Survey for Biological Safety

This communication requests that faculty and staff register their laboratories with the Office of Regulatory Research Compliance.

Per the National Institute of Health (NIH) Office of Biotechnology Activities (OBA), "Biohazards" are agents of biologic origin that can produce harmful effects on humans. They include but are not limited to infectious microorganisms such as bacteria, viruses, fungi, parasites, and toxins of biological origin.

Biohazards may not be as well-known or as visible as chemical or physical hazards; however, workers exposed to biohazardous materials can develop severe health problems, including infections, allergies, various forms of cancer, and other illnesses. Depending on the communicability of the agent, secondary infections in non-laboratory employees, students, and visitors can also occur. Thus, the identification of research-related biohazards is pivotal to federally mandated oversight of interrelated activities. It will enable the HU Biosafety Program, administered by the Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) in the ORRC, to comply with OBA's regulations.

Before initiating a new project, you are responsible for adhering to applicable federal and local regulatory requirements and the HU IBC policy and procedures. Outlined below are some of the processes that you must follow when working with biohazardous materials at HU:

- Projects that involve recombinant DNA (rDNA) fall under the NIH Guidelines



Involving Work with Recombinant DNA Molecules, and therefore, must be reviewed and approved by IBC.

- Studies and or projects that involve infectious organisms, such as cultures of HIV or virus-producing cell lines and non-human primate cells, must be registered and approved by the HU IBC.
- Studies and or projects that involve the administration of rDNA molecules or infectious microbiological agents into animals must be reviewed and approved separately by both HU IBC and the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC).
- Studies and or projects that involve the use of human blood, body fluids, unfixed tissues and organs, and primary human cells must be reviewed and approved by the HU IBC and the Institutional Review Board (IRB).
- Studies and or projects that involve the use of human embryonic stem cells (hESC) must be registered both with IBC and IRB.

To assist Howard University in complying with federal regulations on research involving recombinant DNA molecules, biological toxins, and infectious agents, it is vital that you take a few minutes of your time to complete the ORRC questionnaire using the [link](#)/Qcode provided below:



Alternatively, you may access the form through the ORRC website at:
www.orrchoward.com.

Persons working with biohazards must complete the survey no later than **June 30, 2023**, regardless of whether your activity is funded or teaching-related.

Additionally, the National Institute of Health (NIH) and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) need your help with the National Inventory for Poliovirus Containment. If your laboratory tests, extracts, handles, or stores biological samples from humans, experimentally infected animals, sewage, or environmental waters, we ask that you follow the link below to complete the survey: <https://Containment/NIPC.htm>

Thank you for your cooperation.

CC: Bruce Jones, Ph.D., Vice President Research

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Andrea Jackson, DDS, Dean, College of Dentistry

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