SECTION: Scholarly Activity
TOPIC: Biosafety
Approved: Signature on File

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POLICY

The Burrell College of Health Sciences shall follow all current federal, state and local regulations/guidelines for the handling and containment of biohazardous material. The College shall establish and maintain an Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) responsible for enforcing these regulations.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL(S):

Assistant Dean for Research; Chair, Institutional Biosafety Committee

DEFINITIONS:

Biohazardous materials: Any material of biologic origin that is potentially hazardous to humans, animals, plants and the environment including but not limited to:

- Known pathogenic agents: bacteria, viruses, fungi, parasites and prions.
- Nucleic acids used in genetic manipulations (recombinant DNA technology, synthetic biology).
- Cell lines: human or non-human primate derived; lines deliberately infected with a pathogen or exposed to a biologic toxin; any recombinant cell line.
- Animals including research and wild animals that are known or suspected to harbor pathogenic organisms.
- Toxins of biologic origin.
- Plant materials including those that are known or suspected to harbor plant pathogens or plant pests; transgenic plants; and exotic plants.
- Animal materials including transgenic animals; blood, blood components, body fluids, tissues or organs from animals known or suspected to harbor pathogenic organisms.
- Human materials including human blood, blood components, body fluids, tissues or organs.
- Vectors including arthropods that are known or suspected to harbor pathogenic organisms.
- Select agents are agents that have been determined by the federal government as being capable, if released, of causing a serious public health crisis or are high consequence agricultural pathogens. The select agent lists can be found in 42 CFR Part 73 (human and overlap), 7 CFR Part 331 (plant), and 9 CFR Part 121 (animal)

Biological safety addresses the safe handling and containment of biohazardous materials in order to protect humans, animals, plants and the environment.

Containment refers to the safe work practices, equipment and facility design used to protect personnel, the environment and the community from exposure to biohazardous materials. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's publication Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories (BMBL, 5th Edition) defines four biosafety levels (BSL-1, -2, -3, and -4) that describe increasing levels of containment.

PROCEDURE:

1. The Burrell College of Health Sciences IBC shall review, approve and oversee activities in accordance with the responsibilities defined in Section IV-B-2 of the NIH Guidelines for Research Involving Recombinant or Synthetic Nucleic Acid Molecules. An expanded the scope of the IBC shall include oversight, administration and review of College policies and research involving any microorganism, biologic toxin, or other biologic material that may pose a threat to humans, animals, plants or the environment.

2. The IBC shall provide institutional assurance to the Assistant Dean for Research that research is conducted in accordance with current local, state and federal regulations relating to the use and disposal of biohazardous material. To this end, the IBC shall assist and advise researchers in meeting their responsibilities to ensure that all biological aspects of research are conducted in a safe manner using established biosafety standards, principles and practices.
3. The IBC shall be empowered to withhold authorization of any studies that do not adhere to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and NIH Guidelines until containment requirements are established.

CROSS REFERENCE:
Biological Safety Manual