



The University of Vermont

Richard A. Galbraith, MD, PhD
Vice President for Research

MEMO

To: Investigators

From: Richard A. Galbraith
Vice President for Research

Date: June 13, 2017

RE: IBC

I want to make you aware of an initiative that is ongoing in the Research Protections Office. The Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) has been working to redesign the IBC protocol review process. It was noted during this work that we needed to formalize a post approval biosafety assessment process. This regulatory requirement is noted in the [NIH Guidelines for Research Involving Recombinant DNA Molecules](#), and will also be in support of promoting a culture of safety at the University.

To address this need, the Committee has developed and approved a Post Approval Laboratory Biosafety Assessment process (attached). The plan is to send a team, comprised of the Biosafety Officer and alternating IBC Committee members, to visit each laboratory by the end of this year. This will provide us an opportunity to conduct a review of our laboratories and to assess our safety practices and compliance with the NIH and IBC.

The primary focus of the assessment process is to assess PPE use and management, educate and advise on biosafety and IBC compliance matters, and address any questions or concerns brought forth by principal investigators. This process is intended to be collegial and interactive, not punitive. If a biosafety or IBC compliance issue is discovered during a visit, the IBC will assist the investigators in addressing the issue.

Specific details will be forwarded separately to affected investigators prior to the commencement of the assessment process. If you have any questions about this biosafety assessment process, please contact IBC@uvm.edu

Attached: Post Approval Laboratory Biosafety Assessment

OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH
330 Waterman Building, 85 South Prospect Street, Burlington, VT 05405
(802)656-2918 • Richard.Galbraith@uvm.edu