



BOARD OF REGENTS POLICY:

Activities Involving Recombinant and Synthetic Nucleic Acid Molecules or Other Potentially Hazardous Biological Agents

SECTION I. SCOPE.

This policy applies to all research or teaching activities conducted at the University of Minnesota (University) involving recombinant and synthetic nucleic acid molecules or other potentially hazardous biological agents.

SECTION II. DEFINITIONS.

Subd. 1. Biological Agent.

Biological agent shall mean infectious agents, biologically-derived toxins, and recombinant and synthetic nucleic acid molecules.

Subd. 2. Institutional Biosafety Committee.

Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) shall mean the committee appointed by the president or delegate in accordance with National Institutes of Health guidelines and other applicable requirements and policies to review University activities involving recombinant and synthetic nucleic acid molecules or other biological agents.

Subd. 3. Recombinant and Synthetic Nucleic Acid Molecules.

Recombinant and synthetic nucleic acid molecules shall mean (i) molecules that a) are constructed by joining nucleic acid molecules and b) can replicate in a living cell (i.e. recombinant nucleic acids); (ii) nucleic acid molecules that are chemically or by other means synthesized or amplified, including those that are chemically or otherwise modified but can base pair with naturally occurring nucleic acid molecules (i.e. synthetic nucleic acids); or (iii) molecules that result from the replication of those described in (i) or (ii) above or as defined by the National Institutes of Health.

SECTION III. GUIDING PRINCIPLES.

University faculty, staff, and students using potentially hazardous biological agents in research or teaching activities shall perform those activities in ways that eliminate or reduce potential exposure to personnel, students, animals, and the environment.

SECTION IV. COMPLIANCE PROVISIONS.

Subd. 1. Responsibilities of the IBC.

The president or delegate shall ensure that the IBC oversees research and teaching activities involving:

(a) recombinant and synthetic nucleic acid molecules in compliance with safety requirements established by the National Institutes of Health in the *Guidelines for Research Involving Recombinant DNA Molecules*, 51 Fed. Reg. 16,958 (1986, and as subsequently revised); and

(b) other potentially hazardous biological agents in compliance with safety requirements established by the Centers for Disease Control/National Institutes of Health in the manual *Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories* (4th edition May 1999 and subsequent editions).

Subd. 2. Compliance with University Policies.

The president or delegate shall maintain administrative policies and procedures to implement this policy.

REVISION HISTORY

Adopted: March 11, 1994

Amended: July 12, 2006; February 7, 2013

Last Comprehensive Review: 2021

Supersedes: Hazardous Biological Materials Controls (DNA) Policy dated September 9, 1977.