BIOSAFETY OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH PROGRAM

The Biosafety Occupational Health Program (BOHP) provides occupational health services to Texas A&M personnel at occupational risk of exposure to animals or to infectious biohazards at Biosafety Level 2 (BSL-2) or higher in the course of their participation in Institutional Biosafety Committee or Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee permitted research, teaching or diagnostic activities. Through the BOHP, eligible participants have access to educational resources and trainings, occupational health services, and an occupational health provider. rcb.tamu.edu/bohp

BIOSAFETY PROGRAM

All research, teaching, and testing activities conducted by a member of the faculty or staff of Texas A&M involving any of the agents/materials listed below, must be approved by the Texas A&M Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) prior to initiation:

- Pathogens and potential pathogens of humans, animals, or plants;
- Materials potentially containing human pathogens including human and non-human primate blood, tissue, and cell lines;
- Recombinant DNA (and RNA) including creation or use of transgenic plants, animals, and microbes;
- Toxins of biological origin;
- Select agents and toxins including strains and amounts exempted from the select agent regulations;

The IBC serves Texas A&M employees as well as employees from the A&M System members. rcb.tamu.edu/biohazards
**HUMAN RESEARCH PROTECTION PROGRAM**

The Human Research Protection Program (HRPP) is a resource for anyone involved with human subjects research at Texas A&M: potential research participants, current research participants, investigators, administrators, or interested community members. In conjunction with the Institutional Review Board, the HRPP works to assure the protection of human research participants and to ensure Texas A&M’s compliance with laws and regulations governing human subjects research. Any human subjects research conducted by Texas A&M faculty, staff, or students must be reviewed and approved prior to being initiated. Also, any party wishing to conduct research using Texas A&M employees or students as subjects must secure authorization prior to recruiting participants.

[rcb.tamu.edu/humansubjects/hrpp](rcb.tamu.edu/humansubjects/hrpp)

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**GOOD LABORATORY PRACTICES (GLP)**

GLPs are a set of federal regulations that apply when conducting *in-vitro* or *in-vivo* safety studies and in some cases efficacy studies on certain human or animal products regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency or the Food and Drug Administration. Investigators are strongly encouraged to contact the GLP Program before committing to conduct GLP studies to receive assistance and to ensure the requirements can be met and avoid delays in initiating research. [rcb.tamu.edu/quality-assurance/glp/goodlaboratorypractices](rcb.tamu.edu/quality-assurance/glp/goodlaboratorypractices)

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**FINANCIAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

In order to promote objectivity in research, researchers are required to disclose any involvement that might constitute a financial conflict of interest (FCOI) as applied to all externally sponsored research activities. Researchers must submit online via Maestro an Annual Financial Disclosure Statement to the FCOI office 1) within 30 days of employment, 2) annually, not later than August 31, and 3) within 30 days after acquiring a new significant financial interest requiring disclosure.

[vcpr.tamu.edu/manage-research/COI](vcpr.tamu.edu/manage-research/COI)

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**RESEARCH MISCONDUCT**

The Texas A&M University System defines misconduct in research as the fabrication, falsification, or plagiarism in proposing, performing, reviewing, or reporting research. It does not include honest error or honest differences in interpretations or judgments of data or primary source documents. A Texas A&M employee who becomes aware of possible misconduct in research should immediately report the concerns and/or allegations to their supervisor, department head, or dean, who will consult immediately with the designated officer regarding the nature of the concerns and/or allegations.

[vcpr.tamu.edu/a-m-research/factsheets/pdfs/ResearchMisconduct](vcpr.tamu.edu/a-m-research/factsheets/pdfs/ResearchMisconduct)

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**RESPONSIBLE CONDUCT OF RESEARCH**

As an institution of higher education committed to the advancement of scholarship, Texas A&M University is responsible for (1) promoting academic practices that encourage honesty and scientific integrity and (2) developing rules and procedures for dealing with allegations or other indications of fraud or serious misconduct.

[vcpr.tamu.edu/manage-research/responsible-conduct-of-research](vcpr.tamu.edu/manage-research/responsible-conduct-of-research)

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**ANIMAL WELFARE OFFICE**

Texas A&M has established an Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) that meets all federal requirements, as defined in the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) and the Public Health Service Policy (PHS) on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals. The Animal Welfare Office serves as the liaison between the IACUC and the research community.

The IACUC is responsible for the oversight, evaluation, and assurance of compliance for the institution’s animal care and use program and A&M System members as outlined in the PHS Assurance, AWA, and the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals. The IACUC committee serves Texas A&M researchers and educators, as well as researchers and educators from A&M System members. Clinical research conducted in the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences using client-owned animals must be approved by the Clinical Research Review Committee (CRRC) and the IACUC. Individuals who work with animals or are at risk from animal exposure must be enrolled in a Biosafety Occupational Health Program and informed of the risks associated with the animal exposure.

[rcb.tamu.edu/animals](rcb.tamu.edu/animals)