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 Texas A&M faculty, staff or students, 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

The Division of Research is committed to promoting and ensuring the highest standards of research integrity in proposing, conducting, and reporting research. Through its various programs, the Division provides information and guidance in areas such as biosafety, animal use and care, human research protection, conflict of interest/commitment, biosafety occupational health, export controls, research misconduct, responsible conduct of research, and hosting visiting scholars.
HUMAN RESEARCH PROTECTION PROGRAM
The Human Research Protection Program (HRPP) is a resource for participants and investigators involved with human subjects research at Texas A&M University. The HRPP provides support to the Institutional Review Boards, education and outreach to the research community, and informs institutional policy on human research protections.

Federal regulations and institutional policy require any human subjects research conducted by agents of Texas A&M, including faculty, staff, or students, be reviewed and approved by the Texas A&M IRB prior to being initiated. A sample of common research activities that require submission to the IRB are listed on SOP HRP-093. rcb.tamu.edu/humansubjects/forms/HRP093SOPActivitiesthatRequireIRBReview.pdf

Additional information and guidance for conducting human subjects research can be found in University Rule 15.99.01.M1 Human Subjects in Research at rules-saps.tamu.edu/PDFS/15.99.01.M1.pdf and the HRPP website at rcb.tamu.edu/humansubjects.

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. vpr.tamu.edu/manage-research/COI

CONFLICT OF COMMITMENT
A Conflict of Commitment exists when a faculty or staff member's external relationships or activities have the possibility (either in actuality or in appearance) of interfering or competing with the University's educational, research, or service missions, or with that individual's ability or willingness to perform the full range of duties and responsibilities associated with his or her position. This includes the performance of duties for an external entity substantially similar to or in competition with any portion of the individual's employment responsibilities as described in the individual's position description, letters of appointment, and workload assignments. University employees are required to submit and obtain approval for these activities.

rules-saps.tamu.edu/PDFS/15.99.99.M0.02.pdf

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. vpr.tamu.edu/a-n-research/factsheets/pdfs/ResearchMisconduct

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. vpr.tamu.edu/manage-research/responsible-conduct-of-research

EXPORT CONTROLS
Export control laws and regulations establish the conditions under which controlled information and items can be transmitted to anyone outside the United States and to foreign persons and entities in the United States. They also restrict or prohibit the transaction of business with certain countries, persons, and entities that have been sanctioned by federal agencies as a threat to important U.S. interests. All Texas A&M employees and students must be aware of and are responsible for the export control implications of their work and must ensure that their activities conform to export control laws and regulations. There are severe institutional and individual sanctions for violations of export control laws and regulations, including the loss of research funding, loss of export privileges, and/or criminal and civil penalties. vpr.tamu.edu/initiate-research/export-controls

VISITING SCHOLARS
As a major research institution, Texas A&M University often has visitors to its campus who come to collaborate on research and scholarly topics of mutual interests or to work on specific research to be conducted within university facilities. These are referred to as visiting scholars. A visiting scholar is not an employee of Texas A&M or The Texas A&M University System.

All visiting scholars on campus who will have access to Texas A&M research and/or clinical facilities and resources must have prior approval from the department or division head, the dean, and the Division of Research. vpr.tamu.edu/manage-research/visiting-scholars-program/visiting-scholars-program

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
iris.tamu.edu

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