

# FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY

---

## INSTITUTIONAL BIOSAFETY COMMITTEE

### **Institutional Biosafety Committee Charge**

In accordance with the *NIH Guidelines for Research Involving Recombinant or Synthetic Nucleic Acid Molecules*, Ferris State University (FSU) has established an Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC). The IBC oversees research with potentially hazardous biological agents.

The Institutional Official is the executive officer who has authority over this compliance area, including appointment authority. The IBC is administered through the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs (ORSP).

#### **Mission of the Committee**

The primary mission of the IBC is to ensure the safety of faculty, staff, students, and patients involved in biological research at FSU, and to protect the public and the environment from adverse consequences related to that research. The work of the IBC supports the institution in meeting all required standards set by federal, state, and local governments, and as necessary, developing specific FSU policies to make any research conducted with hazardous, or potentially hazardous, biological agents (either naturally occurring or synthetically created) as safe as possible.

#### **Composition of the Committee**

The IBC is comprised of "no fewer than five members so selected that they collectively have experience and expertise in recombinant DNA technology and the capability to assess the safety of recombinant DNA research and to identify any potential risk to public health or the environment" (Section IV-B-2-a-(1), *NIH Guidelines*). Members of the committee are selected based upon their knowledge of subject areas that the IBC is charged to review, they fulfill the areas of expertise specified by Section IV-B-2-a of the *NIH Guidelines*, and they are appointed by the Institutional Official for renewable three-year terms.

#### **Scope of the Committee's Responsibility**

The IBC is responsible for reviewing research and classroom activities with potentially hazardous biological agents in order to assess whether or not the biosafety containment level proposed is adequate to protect workers, the public, and the environment from the risks posed by the work.

The IBC will determine approval or disapproval of the proposed experiments through review of the application submitted by the principal investigator, along with supporting materials as needed. This review and oversight involves independent assessment of facilities, procedures, practices, and training and expertise of personnel involved in the research.

# FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY

---

## INSTITUTIONAL BIOSAFETY COMMITTEE

Specifically, the IBC is charged with the review and oversight of research and classroom activities with the following potentially hazardous biological agents and experiments:

- Recombinant DNA and synthetic nucleic acid molecules
- Infectious agents
- Biological toxins
- Human-derived tissues, fluids, cells
- Certain animal-derived tissues, fluids, cells

The committee does not manage laboratory safety and/or biohazardous waste disposal, which is the responsibility of Ferris State University campus and lab safety.

**Regarding work with recombinant DNA and synthetic nucleic acid molecules:** The IBC is responsible for functions as described in *NIH Guidelines* Section IV-B-2-b. FSU requires all use of recombinant DNA be registered with the IBC, even if that use is exempt from the *NIH Guidelines*. For human gene transfer experiments, the IBC performs reviews, grants approval, and provides oversight in accordance with *NIH Guidelines* Section IV-B-2-b-(1), Section 1-E, Section III-C and Appendix M.

**Regarding Select Agents, Dual Use Research of Concern, and Research Requiring BSL3 Containment:** Research with Federally Regulated Select Agents, Dual Use Research of Concern and Research Requiring BSL3 Containment is not permitted at FSU.

*Approved,*



*Thomas Dowling, PhD, Institutional Official  
Director, Research and Sponsored Programs*

4/9/2021

Date