



THE UNIVERSITY
of NORTH CAROLINA
at CHAPEL HILL

Dear Colleagues,

You are receiving this email because you have a Laboratory Safety Plan designating your lab as working with biological hazards, recombinant or synthetic nucleic acid molecules, or use of transgenic animals or plants.

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill continues to demonstrate a commitment to the responsible and safe conduct of research by joining the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and other institutions receiving NIH funding in observing [National Biosafety Stewardship Month](#) this October.

National Biosafety Stewardship Month is an opportunity for institutions to highlight the importance of biosafety and undertake proactive activities to strengthen their biosafety policies, practices and procedures. The NIH's theme for this year's National Biosafety Month is "[Promoting Biosafety through Good Governance](#)". Here at UNC-CH we believe "good governance" is achieved by instituting robust oversight programs and establishing a [culture of safety](#) for all university personnel that conduct research with biohazardous materials.

As part of National Biosafety Stewardship Month, we strongly encourage Principal Investigators who work with infectious agents, recombinant DNA, or [select agent toxins](#) to participate by taking an active role of biosafety in their laboratories and prioritizing the following [Top 5](#) activities:

1. Ensuring that good microbiological practices are routinely followed by all laboratory personnel wear, including appropriate use of [personal protective clothing and equipment](#) (PPE), use of [biosafety cabinets](#) (BSCs), and safe use of [needles and sharps](#) among others.
2. Comprehensively reviewing their [Laboratory Safety Plan](#) (LSP) to ensure all infectious agents and/or recombinant DNA used in the lab are accurately reflected in the LSP.
3. Ensuring all laboratory personnel have reviewed the [Laboratory Safety Manual](#) and [Biological Safety Manual](#) and have documented laboratory-specific safety training as outlined in their lab safety SOPs
4. Encouraging staff to [report](#) any incidents, near-misses or biosafety concerns.
5. Encouraging all laboratory personnel to fulfill their annual Biosafety and Bloodborne Pathogens (BBP) training modules
 - a. [Instructor-led](#) and [self-study](#) training modules can be found [here](#).
 - b. Online safety training history and records can be reviewed [here](#).

Please contact the EHS Office at 919-962-5507 or via email ibc@unc.edu with any questions or comments. Thank you for your efforts to maintain a safe working environment at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Sincerely,

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