

Memorandum of Understanding

From: Fred King, Vice President for Research and Economic Development and Institutional Official

To: Dr. Thomas Elliott, Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) Chair

Re: Authority and Scope of the WVU IBC

Date: March 26, 2012

All research and other activities involving recombinant DNA is required (by federal guidelines) to be reviewed and approved (regardless of whether the activity is funded or not funded) by the WVU IBC. This memorandum also establishes the WVU IBC's institutional authority to enforce, advise and oversee in whatever manner it sees fit, all activities involving biological agents or samples to insure public safety within the WVU community.

In addition, West Virginia University requires the review and approval of all research, teaching, diagnostic, and extension activities involving any biological material. The WVU IBC defines potentially biohazardous material to include all of the categories below. Principal investigators at WVU who carry out experiments, store, or in any way utilize the below said materials must seek the approval from the WVU IBC via the IBC Protocol Approval Form prior to initiating their research for the following areas:

- Recombinant DNA.
- Genetically modified organisms. Including, but not limited to:
 - Animals, plants, invertebrates, and/or other organisms created by WVU employees or in/on WVU property.
 - Transgenic field trials, any genetically modified organisms to be introduced into the environment (by WVU personnel and/or on WVU property).
 - Field testing of plants engineered to produce pharmaceutical and industrial compounds.

- Any organisms, agents, or toxins or any material requiring federal permits (including, but not limited to, OSHA, APHIS, CDC, EPA, FDA etc).
- Pathogens/infectious agents (human, animal, plant, and other).
- Select/Biological Agents and Toxins (CDC and USDA). (Please note that possession, use, or transfer of Select/Biological Agents and Toxins entails additional requirements – contact the WVU Office of Research Integrity & Compliance ORIC for further information.)
- Biological toxins.
- Human blood and potentially infectious human fluids or tissue.
- Work with animals or vectors known or suspected to be reservoirs of BSL2 or BSL3 infectious agents when such work increases potential exposure risks to personnel or other animals,
- Oncogenic viruses used in conjunction with animals in addition to regulation of activities with potentially biohazardous materials.
- The WVU IBC also oversees work with some organisms not viewed as biohazardous, including genetically modified whole plants which are commercially available and do not require APHIS permits.
- In addition, the WVU IBC extends to federal requirements for reporting, oversight, guidance and local enforcement needed for acceptable operation of BSL 1-3 laboratories and ABSL 1-3 facilities at WVU.

This directive memorandum on authority and scope of the WVU IBC applies to all WVU employees (whether the activity is conducted on WVU facilities or non-WVU facilities) and also applies to any activities conducted on WVU facilities by non-WVU employees.

Fred L. King



Interim Vice President for Research