

Dual Use Research of Concern

Dual Use Research of Concern (DURC) is life sciences research that, may provide knowledge, information, products, or technologies that could be directly misapplied to pose a significant threat with broad potential consequences to public health and safety, plants, animals, the environment, or national security.

Responsibilities of the Institution:

In accordance with the policy, the University of Massachusetts Medical School Institutional Biosafety Committee (UMMS IBC) has established and implemented internal policies and practices that provide for the identification and effective oversight of DURC. It has established a subcommittee to act as the Institutional Review Entity (IRE). The IRE will provide oversight, in accordance with the United States Government (USG) Policy for Institutional Oversight of DURC. The IRE will identify and review studies involving the use of DURC agents, and develop and implement risk mitigation measures as appropriate by working with the Principal Investigators and USG agencies. The IBC and IRE will provide education and training on DURC for individuals conducting life sciences research that involves any of the 15 agents and toxins listed in this Policy. The IRE and Institutional Contact for Dual Use Research (ICDUR; senior biosafety officer and responsible official) will report instances of noncompliance with this Policy, as well as mitigation measures undertaken by the institution to prevent recurrences of similar noncompliance, within 30 calendar days.

Responsibilities of Investigators:

- Identify research involving one or more of the agents and toxins listed in the Policy;
- Work with the IRE to assess the risks and benefits of the dual use research of concern and to develop risk mitigation measures where appropriate;
- Conduct DURC in accordance with the provisions in the risk mitigation plan;
- Be knowledgeable about and comply with all institutional and Federal policies and requirements for oversight of DURC;
- Ensure that laboratory personnel conducting life sciences research with any of the 15 agents and toxins listed in the Policy have received education and training on DURC; and
- Communicate DURC in a responsible manner.

United States Government Policy for Institutional Oversight of Life Sciences Dual Use Research of Concern: <http://www.phe.gov/s3/dualuse/Documents/durc-policy.pdf>

FAQ: <http://www.phe.gov/s3/dualuse/Documents/durc-faqs.pdf>

For additional information and questions about DURC, please contact the Institutional Contact for Dual Use Research” (ICDUR):

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