General Requirements and Procedures for Recombinant DNA Research

Recombinant DNA research is conducted with molecules constructed outside living cells, where DNA segments are joined or replicated, where a DNA sequence may be modified, or where related research is conducted with this type of material. The purpose of this document is to summarize requirements, procedures and expectations for conducting recombinant DNA research at Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi. Certain general procedures are outlined to aid scientists in compliance.

Any research conducted with recombinant DNA, regardless of the source of funding or source of recombinant material, must be conducted in accordance with Institutional requirements and federal guidelines. Texas A&M – Corpus Christi voluntarily adheres to NIH Guidelines for Research Involving Recombinant DNA and appropriate Administrative Supplements, as issued. Research on recombinant DNA should also be conducted in accordance with CDC/NIH Biosafety Guidelines (Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories [BMBL]), as appropriate. Experiments involving animals or plants may require compliance with additional regulations and approval by the Office of Agricultural Biotechnology, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

It is essential that recombinant DNA research be conducted in accordance with the intent, as well as specific requirements and guidelines. Research is dynamic, and it is not possible to anticipate every situation. The conscientious effort and good judgment of personnel are essential for protection of health and the environment during recombinant DNA research. Primary responsibility for compliance with institutional and governmental requirements and for safe and proper experimentation resides with the principal investigator (PI). The Institutional Biosafety Committee members are appointed to review and monitor recombinant DNA research on behalf of A&M – Corpus Christi.

Review and Approval of Recombinant DNA Research

All recombinant DNA research conducted at A&M – Corpus Christi must be registered with the IBC. All proposals for recombinant DNA research, unless specifically exempted by the NIH Guidelines, must be reviewed and approved by the entire convened IBC prior to initiating work. This includes, but is not limited to: recombinant products, DNA probes, vector systems, and related material received from outside sources. Exempt proposals must be reviewed and approved by a subcommittee of the IBC prior to initiating work. Review by the IBC includes evaluation for compliance and conformance with the NIH Guidelines; assessment of the containment levels required by the Guidelines; assessment of the facilities, procedures and practices; and consideration of the training and expertise of recombinant DNA personnel.

Records Retention

All research related records must be maintained for at least 3 years after the project expiration.