



Overview of Research Compliance: IRB, IACUC, and IBC

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Research Compliance

Ensuring Compliance in Research & Training Requirements

- **IRB**- work with human subjects
- **IACUC**- work with animals
- **IBC**- work with biohazardous materials

Other areas:

- Export Control and Conflict of Interest
- Research misconduct investigations
- Staff works collaboratively with other areas of the university

Institutional Review Board (IRB)

The IRB oversees research involving human subjects to ensure:

- Ethical conduct and protection of participants
- Compliance with federal regulations (e.g., 45 CFR 46)
- Proper informed consent procedures
- Two separate offices: BUMC IRB and BU/CRC IRB

Key Responsibilities:

- Review and approve human subjects research protocols
- Ensure participant safety and confidentiality
- Educate researchers on ethical and regulatory compliance
- Quality assurance processes for PI and IRB
- **CRC protocols submitted via email/Word (no esubmission system currently)**
- **BUMC protocols submitted via INSPR (esubmission system)**

IRB Training Requirements

- Human Subjects Protection Training – Required for researchers working with human participants (CITI)
- Additional training may be required based on research type (e.g., clinical trials, vulnerable populations)
- Training must be reviewed every 3 years
- Contact CRC/BUMC IRB office for specific training requirements

Compliance & Responsibility

- PIs are responsible for ensuring that all personnel complete required training
- Failure to complete training may delay research approval
- Regular updates and refresher courses may be necessary to maintain compliance

Institutional Animal Care & Use Committee (IACUC)

The IACUC oversees research involving animals to ensure:

- Ethical treatment and humane care
- Compliance with federal regulations (e.g., USDA, PHS)
- Ensures proper housing, handling, and veterinary care
- AAALAC accredited program

Key Responsibilities:

- Reviews and approves animal research protocols
- Conducts facility inspections and program evaluations
- Provides training on animal welfare and care
- Quality assurance processes for PI

Reviews submitted through Huron (esubmision system)

IACUC Training Requirements

- Animal Care & Use Training – Covers ethics, handling, and proper care of lab animals (AALAS Learning Laboratory via SciShield and in-lab training)
- ROHP requirements
- Training varies by research type and species
- BU IACUC websites provides details on training requirements

Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC)

The IBC oversees research involving:

- Recombinant or synthetic nucleic acid molecules
- Biohazardous agents, toxins, and select agents
- Risk assessment and lab safety compliance

Key Responsibilities:

- Review and approve research protocols
- Ensure compliance with NIH Guidelines
- Monitor lab safety practices in collaboration with EHS
- **Reviews submitted through RIMS system**

IBC Subcommittees

- Dual Use Research of Concern Committee (DURCCom)
- Human Gene Therapy Subcommittee
- Laboratory-Acquired Illness Subcommittee (LAI)

National Emerging Infectious Diseases Laboratories (NEIDL)

- A state-of-the-art research facility at Boston University focusing on emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases.
- Specialized BSL-3 and BSL-4 training for high-containment work
- Established to conduct research on infectious diseases with global impact
- Supports the development of diagnostics, treatments, and vaccines
- Works under strict biosafety and security protocols

IBC Training Requirements

- Laboratory Safety Training – Required for all lab workers (Online/Classroom via SciShield)
- Health Questionnaire – Must be completed for ROHP clearance (Annual updates required on some clearances)
- IBC Policy / Recombinant DNA Training & Quiz – Ensures compliance with NIH & BU policies
- Additional specialized training may be required based on research hazards

Contact & Resources

For more details, visit:

- BU IBC: bu.edu/researchsupport/compliance/ibc
- BU IRB: bu.edu/researchsupport/compliance/human-subjects/
- BU IACUC: bu.edu/researchsupport/compliance/animal-care/

QUESTIONS?