



OCTOBER 2025

BIO SAFETY AND BIOSECURITY MONTH

*It Takes a Village to Build a Culture of Biosafety:
Honoring the Heroes of Biosafety & Biosecurity*

Research Students, Staff and PIs



- Register projects in SciShield to ensure compliance
- Complete all required biosafety and biosecurity trainings
- Conduct laboratory work safely at all times
- Report biosafety or biosecurity concerns promptly
- Reach out to the Biosafety Team through AskESSR

“The UMD Biosafety Officer and staff are always available to discuss new projects. Their advice is extremely helpful. I always try to engage with them early in the planning process for new projects and especially any lab renovations or new lab designs.”

Donald Milton, Distinguished University Professor, Environmental Health, Global, Environmental, and Occupational Health (GEOH)

“Biosafety thrives when we communicate openly, ask questions, and support one another.”

Jinyi (Cornelia) Zhu, PhD Candidate, Department of Veterinary Medicine



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AskESSR
askESSR@umd.edu
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Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC)



- Provides oversight of research involving recombinant materials, biotoxins, and infectious agents
- Supports researchers with guidance on biosafety and risk mitigation
- Represents community interests by ensuring research activities are conducted responsibly with regard to public health and the environment
- Upholds federal, state, and local standards for responsible research at UMD

“The IBC collaborates with the UMD community to ensure the safe and compliant handling of all potentially biohazardous materials in research, teaching, and training.”

Jeffrey DeStefano, UMD IBC Chair, Professor, Department of Cell Biology and Molecular Genetics

“As a non affiliate member of the IBC, I ensure transparency and proper safety protocols to protect the community from outbreaks. I focus on risks like waste disposal and ensure that researchers involved in incidents receive treatment without posing danger to the community.”

Alan Hew, College Park Councilmember, IBC non-affiliated member



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Facilities Management Department



- Maintains HVAC, plumbing, and utilities to support safe laboratory operations
- Responds promptly to facility issues that may impact safety
- Ensures laboratory infrastructure consistently meets safety standards
- Conducts thorough HVAC testing for high-containment facilities

“*FM partners with UMD ESSR BioSafety and UMD researchers to collectively support the critical work conducted in the campus's laboratories. FM personnel are dedicated to fulfilling service requests as well as performing behind-the-scenes preventive maintenance on the utilities, infrastructure, and mechanical systems essential to the quality of the institution's research activities.*”

Glynnis Bowman, Director, FM Safety and Emergency Response



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University of Maryland Police Department (UMPD)



- Ensures the security of research facilities and maintains strict control over laboratory access
- Provides timely and effective response to laboratory incidents and emergencies
- Collaborates with the biosafety team to conduct drills and strengthen emergency preparedness
- Fosters community trust through consistent presence, transparency, and engagement

“By securing facilities, responding swiftly to incidents, and engaging with our community, we foster a proactive biosafety and biosecurity culture built on preparedness, trust, and collaboration.”

Major Kenneth Ecker, Commander, Police Services Bureau/Emergency Manager



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Compliance Officers and Lab Liaisons



- Serve as key links between laboratories, departments, and ESSR
- Advise research teams on biosafety and compliance requirements
- Communicate departmental needs and concerns to ESSR
- Promote accountability and strengthen UMD's culture of safe research

“*The Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture values and actively promotes a proactive biosafety and biosecurity culture, and welcomes collaboration and cooperation with the ESSR. Our faculty, staff, students, and collaborators are conscientious regarding safety in the laboratories, classrooms, and field locations where their departmental mission efforts are focused.*”

Shaun Faulkner, Facilities Manager, Dept. of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture



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Campus Stakeholders

(UHC, IACUC, IRB, ORA, OEMBC, OGC, and DLAR)



- Integrate biosafety and biosecurity into health, animal care, and research ethics
- Ensure research policies comply with federal and institutional requirements
- Provide expert review of research protocols across disciplines
- Promote accountability and reinforce UMD's culture of safe and ethical research

“*Collaboration is key to biosafety in research! We are working hard to foster excellent relationships with our investigators, and with our colleagues in other compliance areas. Working together, we can ensure safety for everyone.*”

Pamela Lanford, Director of Animal Research Compliance & Research Policy Advisor

“*It takes a team to build a culture of safety. Through our partnership a culture of safety is fostered and integrated into all research sectors at UMD.*”

Kendra McMillan, Infection Control and Occupational Health Nurse, University Health Center





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ESSR & Biosafety Team



- Support safe research through safety, occupational health, and compliance programs
- Ensure fire, life safety, and environmental responsibilities across campus
- Provide training, resources, and guidance for the research community
- Conduct inspections, risk assessments, and emergency response
- Foster a proactive culture of safety and continuous improvement



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Environmental Affairs
Fire Marshal
Occupational Safety & Health
Research Safety
Risk Management
Sustainability

“*Biosafety is not the work of one, but the shared responsibility of all. By working together, we strengthen safety, compliance, health, and preparedness across UMD. We are grateful to everyone who contributes to building this proactive culture of biosafety. The true heroes are all of you.*”

Hong Yang, Assistant Director of Biosafety, Biosafety Officer



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