TITLE: Occupational Health and Safety Program

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<th>Policy Number:</th>
<th>2014-039</th>
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<tr>
<td>Responsible Department:</td>
<td>Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee</td>
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<td>Approval Date:</td>
<td>10/8/14</td>
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Purpose of Policy: This policy is intended to prevent or minimize the risk of illness or injury to persons working with or around animals and to provide for early diagnosis or attention when such illnesses occur.

Policy Information: The *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* states that “Each institution must establish and maintain an occupational health and safety program (OHSP) as an essential part of the overall Program of animal care and use”, and the *Occupational Health and Safety in the Care and Use of Research Animals* report states that “protecting the health and safety of employees engaged in the care and use of research animals is a cooperative enterprise” that, in addition to the active participation of institutional officials, animal care personnel and scientists engaged in animal research, “the individual employees themselves must share the responsibility both for their own health and safety and for the health and safety of those around them”.

Certain animals and animal materials can carry diseases or disease agents that are transmissible to humans. For their own protection, persons working with or around research animals, including but not limited to, their tissues, body fluids or waste, or who are exposed to animal allergens on a regular basis or who come into contact with animals must enroll in the OHSP.

To successfully enroll in the OHSP, personnel must 1) complete and submit to the Student-Employee Health Office the Animal Care and Use Exposure Risk Assessment form located on the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee’s (IACUC) [website](#) and 2) complete the on-line quiz on Blackboard based on the document Occupational Health and Safety Program (OHSP) for Personnel Working with or Around Laboratory Animals, also located on the IACUC’s website. A user name and password is required to access Blackboard.

Based on the information provided in the risk assessment form, a health care professional will determine whether or not a medical evaluation is necessary or if interventions, such as respiratory protection or immunizations, are required. The following factors will be considered in performing an adequate risk assessment:
- Animal contact
- Exposure intensity and frequency
- Physical and biological hazards presented by the animal
- Hazardous properties of the agents used in the research protocols
- Susceptibility of the employee
- Occupational-health history of employees doing similar work

Persons required to enroll includes, but is not limited to, the following.

- Veterinarians and their staff
- Animal care workers
- Volunteers
- Investigators
- Visiting scientists, investigators and faculty (not including visitors normally not authorized to be in an animal use area, e.g. a visitor for a day touring a facility (See IACUC Policy No. 2014-040, Occupational Health and Safety Policy for Visitors))
- Vendors that may need to access the facility for equipment installation or servicing (The need for enrollment will be determined on a case by case basis.)
- Laboratory technicians
- Students
- Facilities and maintenance personnel
- Custodial staff

**Related Policies:** Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee’s Policy No. 2014-040, Occupational Health and Safety Policy for Visitors