



## Administrative Committees and Councils

The University of Texas-Pan American  
Committees and Councils Project

### Institutional Radiation and Biological Safety Committee

(Last updated 9-09)

#### Purpose

The purpose of this Institutional Radiation and Biological Safety Committee (IRBC) reviews, approves, and oversees all research, clinical and educational activities involving the use of radioactive materials both ionizing and nonionizing radiation producing devices, infectious biological materials and recombinant DNA at the University of Texas-Pan American. The process provides guidelines that ensure appropriate procedures; equipment, facilities, and training are adequate in conjunction with the risk.

#### Members

Yuakin Lin	Physics and Geology	09-01-10
Mohammed Hannan	Physics and Geology	09-01-10
Jalal Mondal	Chemistry	09-01-10
Jo Ann Rampersad	Chemistry	09-01-10
Hassan Ahmad	Chemistry	09-01-10
Michael Persans	Biology	09-01-10
John Lieman	Biology	09-01-10
Robert Zarnowski	Biology	09-01-10
Rick Gray	Student Health Services	09-01-10
Bahram Faraji	College of Health Sciences (Dietetics)	09-01-10
Karen Chandler	College of Health Sciences (CLS)	09-01-10
Raghuveer Puttagunta	Student Member	09-01-10
James Langabeer	Vice President for Business Affairs	Ex-Officio
Richard Costello	Environmental Health and Safety	Ex-Officio
Wendy Lawrence-Fowler	Vice-Provost for Research & Spon. Projects	Ex-Officio
Teresa Bailey	Office of Sponsored Projects	Ex-Officio
Edwin LeMaster	College of Science & Engineering	Ex-Officio
Wendy James-Aldridge	Psychology and Anthropology	Ex-Officio
Grant Benham	Psychology and Anthropology	Ex-Officio

#### Responsibilities

- Recommending to the Vice President for Academic Affairs policies and procedures to ensure the health and safety of all faculty, staff, students, patients, and visitors within UT-Pan American relating to the use of radioactive material (RAM) ionizing and nonionizing radiation-producing machines, infectious biological agents and rDNA, used in clinical, research, and educational programs.
- Recommending to the Vice President for Academic Affairs policies and procedures to ensure UTPA's compliance with applicable local, state, and federal rules and regulations relating to the use of radioactive material (RAM) and ionizing and nonionizing radiation-producing machines, infectious biological agents and rDNA, used in clinical, research, and educational programs.
- Reviewing recombinant DNA research conducted at or sponsored by the institution for compliance with the *NIH Guidelines, Experiments Covered by the NIH Guidelines*, and approving those research projects that are found to conform to the *NIH Guidelines*.
- Reviewing infectious biological material (BSL-2, BSL-3) research for compliance with CDC *Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories (BMBL)* guidelines, and approving those projects that are found to conform to the guidelines.
- Reviewing research involving the use of radioactive materials and ionizing and nonionizing radiation-producing devices for compliance with Texas Department of State Health Services –Bureau of Radiation Control rules and regulations and approving those projects that are found to conform to DSHS mandates.
- This review shall include:
  - (i) independent assessment of the containment levels required by the *NIH Guidelines* and *BMBL Guidelines* and for the proposed research
  - (ii) assessment of the facilities, procedures, practices, and training and expertise of personnel involved in recombinant DNA and infectious biological material research;
  - (vii) ensuring compliance with all surveillance, data reporting, and adverse event reporting requirements set forth in the *NIH Guidelines* and *BMBL Guidelines*.
- Overseeing the development and maintenance of written biological safety/infectious disease control plans that minimize exposures for all affected personnel through the use of proper engineering controls and work practices; to make the plan available to the institutional community; to recommend updates to the plan, as necessary.
- Notifying the Principal Investigator of the results of the Institutional Radiation and Biosafety Committee's review and approval.
- Lowering containment levels for certain experiments as specified in [Section III-D-2-a, Experiments in which DNA from Risk Group 2, Risk Group 3, Risk Group 4, or Restricted Agents is Cloned into Nonpathogenic Prokaryotic or Lower Eukaryotic Host-Vector Systems](#).
- Setting containment levels as specified in [Sections III-D-4-b, Experiments Involving](#)

*Whole Animals, and III-D-5, Experiments Involving Whole Plants.*

- Adopting emergency plans covering accidental spills and personnel contamination resulting from recombinant DNA research and infectious biological materials.
- Adopting emergency plans covering accidental spills and personnel contamination resulting from research involving radioactive materials.
- Reviewing instances of TB, HBV, HIV or other potentially infectious diseases, to identify exposure-prone procedures and to determine those circumstances, if any, under which an infected health care worker may perform such procedures.
- Overseeing the monitoring and follow-up of those persons testing positive for identified pathogens.

The Department of Environmental Health & Safety is designated as the monitoring and effect or arm of the Institutional Radiation and Biohazards Committee.

### Reporting

The Institutional Radiation and Biological Safety Committee (IRBC) reports to the Vice-President for Academic Affairs on matters related to radioactive materials and radiation producing devices, and infectious biological materials recombinant DNA used in clinical, research, and educational activities at the University of Texas-Pan American.