Dual Use Research of Concern (DURC) Policy

Title:	**Dual Use Research of Concern**
Last Reviewed Date:	05/19/2025
Last Revised Date:	05/19/2025
Effective Date:	09/15/2015
Applies To:	Faculty, staff and students, others
Contact:	EHS Biological Health and Safety 860-486-1838 I ehs@uconn.edu

1 PURPOSE

To provide Institutional oversight of Life Sciences Dual Use Research of Concern.

2 APPLIES TO

This policy applies to anyone at the University of Connecticut conducting or sponsoring life sciences research that involves one or more of the 15 agents or toxins listed in the United States Government Policy for Institutional Oversight of Life Sciences Dual Use Research of Concern. (USG Policy)

3 DEFINITIONS

Dual Use Research of Concern (DURC): is life sciences research that, based on current understanding, can be reasonably anticipated to provide knowledge, information, products, or technologies that could be directly misapplied to pose a significant threat with broad potential consequences to public health and safety, agricultural crops and other plants, animals, the environment, materiel, or national security. Research that uses one or more of the agents or toxins listed, and produces, aims to produce, or can be reasonably anticipated to produce one

or more of the effects listed in the "Categories of experiments" will be evaluated for DURC potential.

Agents and Toxins: (The 15 agents and toxins listed in the USG Policy are subject to the select agent regulations (42 CFR Part 73, 7 CFR Part 331, and 9 CFR Part 121), which set forth the requirements for possession, use, and transfer of select agents and toxins, and have the potential to pose a severe threat to human, animal, or plant health, or to animal or plant products. It is important to note, however, that the Federal Select Agent Program does not oversee the implementation of the USG Policy or the *March 2012 DURC Policy*.)

1. Avian influenza virus (highly pathogenic)
2. *Bacillus anthracis*
3. Botulinum neurotoxin (For the purposes of the USG Policy, there are no exempt quantities of botulinum neurotoxin. Research involving any quantity of botulinum neurotoxin should be evaluated for DURC potential.)
4. *Burkholderia mallei*
5. *Burkholderia pseudomallei*
6. Ebola virus
7. Foot-and-mouth disease virus
8. *Francisella tularensis*
9. Marburg virus
10. Reconstructed 1918 Influenza virus
11. Rinderpest virus
12. Toxin-producing strains of *Clostridium botulinum*
13. Variola major virus
14. Variola minor virus
15. *Yersinia pestis*

Categories of experiments

1. Enhances the harmful consequences of the agent or toxin
2. Disrupts immunity or the effectiveness of an immunization against the agent or toxin without clinical and/or agricultural justification
3. Confers to the agent or toxin resistance to clinically and/or agriculturally useful prophylactic or therapeutic interventions against that agent or toxin or facilitates their ability to evade detection methodologies
4. Increases the stability, transmissibility, or the ability to disseminate the agent or toxin
5. Alters the host range or tropism of the agent or toxin
6. Enhances the susceptibility of a host population to the agent or toxin
7. Generates or reconstitutes an eradicated or extinct agent or toxin listed above

Institutional Contact for Dual USE Research: is an individual designated by the institution to serve as an institutional point of contact for questions regarding compliance with and implementation of the requirements for the oversight of DURC as well as the liaison (as necessary) between the institution and the relevant USG funding agency. A representative from the Office of the Vice President of Research will serve as the ICDUR.

Institutional Review Entity (IRE) is a committee established by the institution as described in the USG Section 7.2.E and empowered to execute the requirements in Section 7.2.B.i- iii, v, and viii. The Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) will serve as the IRE.

Life Sciences pertains to living organisms (e.g., microbes, human beings, animals, and plants) and their products, including all disciplines and methodologies of biology such as aerobiology, agricultural science, plant science, animal science, bioinformatics, genomics, proteomics, microbiology, synthetic biology, virology, molecular biology, environmental science, public health, modeling, engineering of living systems, and all applications of the biological sciences. The term is meant to encompass the diverse approaches to understanding life at the level of ecosystems, populations, organisms, organs, tissues, cells, and molecules.

4 POLICY STATEMENT

Life sciences research that raises dual use concerns will be reviewed by the Institutional Biosafety Committee, acting as the Institutional Review Entity, in accordance with the USG Policy.

5 ENFORCEMENT

Violations of this policy and any related procedures may result in appropriate disciplinary measures in accordance with University Laws and By-Laws, General Rules of Conduct for All University Employees, applicable collective bargaining agreements, and the University of Connecticut Student Conduct Code.

6 RESPONSIBILITIES

6.1 PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

- PI's must notify the Institutional Review Entity (IRE) if their research is to include any of the 15 listed agents and any of the 7 listed categories of experiments.
- The PI must work with the IRE to assess the dual use risks and benefits of the DURC and to develop risk mitigation measures.

- The PI must conduct DURC in accordance with the provisions in the risk mitigation plan.
- The PI must be knowledgeable about and comply with all institutional and USG policies and requirements for oversight of DURC.
- The PI must ensure that laboratory personnel (i.e., those under the supervision of laboratory leadership, including graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, research technicians, laboratory staff, and visiting scientists) conducting life sciences research with one or more of the agents listed in this policy have received education and training on DURC.
- The PI must communicate DURC in a responsible manner. Communication of research and research findings is an essential activity for all researchers, and occurs throughout the research process, not only at the point of publication. Researchers planning to communicate DURC should do so in compliance with the approved risk mitigation plan.

6.2 INSTITUTION/IRE:

- The PI Provide a means for the PI to report DURC research.
- Review potential DURC research identified by the PI in accordance with the USG Policy section 7.2.B.
- Maintain records of DURC reviews and risk mitigation plans in accordance with USG Policy
- Provide education and training on DURC for individuals conducting life sciences research with one or more of the 15 agents listed.
- Ensure compliance with risk mitigation plans.

7 FORMS/PROCEDURES

Visit the IBC web page for more information about the registration process.