

# Compliance Corner - April 2006

Welcome to the final edition of the Compliance Corner for the Spring semester! For this edition I would like to focus on a recent initiative regarding research compliance that has both national and institutional significance.

In response to the attacks on September 11, 2001 coupled with the outbreaks resulting from anthrax, the National Institutes of Health (NIH), in collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), developed a listing of substances entitled “select agents and toxins” that are believed could be used for the purposes of bio-terrorism. According to the NIH guidelines, the listing includes “agents that are known to potentially pose infection among humans and as well as animal agents that may pose theoretical risks if inoculated into humans.”

In response to the published list of select agents and toxins, Institutional Biosafety Committees (IBCs) around the country are conducting annual surveys of their institutions and providing training programs to assist with the identification, tracking and maintenance of select agents and toxins on their respective campuses. In light of this effort, I would like to share with you how the Miami University IBC and OARS has responded to the NIH guidelines:

1. We recently administered an annual university-wide survey to all departmental chairpersons who may have faculty who use such select agents or risk group 2 or above human pathogens and/or recombinant DNA in their teaching and/or research endeavors. The recently completed survey resulted in a 100% return rate of all departments and campuses.
2. The IBC is conducting a workshop for all faculty and lab personnel who indicated that they use such select agents in their teaching and/or research, but are unfamiliar with proper containment procedures. The first training will be held in early April. If you are interested in attending the training, and/or have any questions feel free to email ([responsibleresearch@muohio.edu](mailto:responsibleresearch@muohio.edu)).
3. The OARS Proposal Approval Form (PAF) has now been modified in an effort to track and review grant proposals that involve toxic agents and human pathogens. The newly updated PAF now has a category entitled “Toxic Agents and Human Pathogens” for this purpose. You may find the updated form on the OARS website ([www.muohio.edu/oars](http://www.muohio.edu/oars)) under the Proposal Development and Submission Section.

In closing, it has been a pleasure to share issues of research compliance with you every month. If you are interested in reviewing the NIH listing of select agents and toxins, you may refer to their website at ([www.nih.gov](http://www.nih.gov)) and search under the category of “Select Agents.” If you have any questions about how the IBC is implementing the new guidelines and/or about the training, feel free to contact me at 529-3600 or via email at ([responsibleresearch@muohio.edu](mailto:responsibleresearch@muohio.edu)). As always, I look forward to working with you.

Compliance Counts!  
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