Institutional Biosafety Committee

**FAU Institutional Biosafety Committee**

**Questionnaire on Dual Use Research of Concern**

Background: The US government has instituted a policy on identifying potential Dual Use Research of Concern (DURC). DURC is defined as “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.” FAU has implemented a corresponding policy with regard to DURC—the policy is facilitated through the IBC. As part of that policy, it is a requirement that you answer the following clarification questions when completing your initial application to the IBC or your annual renewal. If your answer is yes to either or both of the clarification questions, you are required to complete the questionnaire.

Clarification questions:

1. Does your research involve one of the following agents or toxins? (If yes, please complete the questionnaire).
2. Avian influenza virus (highly pathogenic)
3. *Bacillus anthracis*
4. Botulinum neurotoxin (any amount)
5. *Burkholderia mallei*
6. *Burkholderia pseudomallei*
7. Ebola virus
8. Foot-and-mouth disease virus
9. *Francisella tularensis*
10. Marburg virus
11. Reconstructed 1918 influenza virus
12. Rinderpest virus
13. Toxin-producing strains of Clostridium botulinum
14. Variola major virus
15. Variola minor virus
16. Yersinia pestis
17. Is your project capable of producing any one of the following outcomes? (If yes, please complete the questionnaire).
18. Increase virulence (Enhance the harmful consequences of an agent or toxin).
19. Overcome immunity (Disrupt immunity or the effectiveness of an immunization against the agent or toxin without clinical or agricultural justification).
20. Develop resistance to drugs. Avoid diagnosis. (Confers to the agent or toxin resistance to clinically or agriculturally useful prophylactic or therapeutic interventions against that agent or toxin or facilitates their ability to evade detection methodologies).
21. Increase transmission (Increases the stability, transmissibility, or the ability to disseminate the agent or toxin).
22. Change tropism (Alter the host range or cellular tropism of the agent or toxin).
23. Increase host susceptibility (Enhance the susceptibility of a host population to the agent or toxin).
24. Regenerate extinct pathogens (Generate or reconstitute an eradicated or extinct agent or toxin).

Questionnaire: If you answered yes to either or both questions 1 and 2, please complete the following:

Principal Investigator:

Project Title:

1. Does your research involve any of these 15 agents of special DURC interest?

Yes If yes, give a brief description of the project and move to 4.

No If no, briefly explain why this is the case.

1. Does the research you are conducting with any of these 15 agents fall under one of the seven DURC categories?

Yes

No

If Yes, please specify the category(ies)

If the answers to questions 3 and 4 are both yes, the research is subject to DURC review and Risk Mitigation. Please continue to answer the following questions:

1. Explain the scientific rationale behind your proposed experiments.

Click here to enter text.

1. Explain the benefits of conducting this research. Is the information to be gained important for the field?

Click here to enter text.

1. Identify the possible DUR concerns associated with this research.

Click here to enter text.

1. Explain why the question addressed by the proposed research cannot be conducted with an agent outside of the 15 DURC agents listed.

Click here to enter text.

1. Develop a DURC mitigation plan. What measures will be applied to mitigate the possible dual use of the products?

Click here to enter text.

1. Modifications to the agents?

Click here to enter text.

1. Modification to publication format to prevent communication of information that could be put to nefarious purposes?

Click here to enter text.