

# Integrity Matters

## Autumn 2026

University of Cincinnati Libraries have signed agreements with scholarly publishers that broaden access to the articles of UC researchers. Under the agreements, [the cost to publish your work open access \(APCs\) will be covered by the library.](#)

The NIH is soliciting comments on [Proposed Changes to Reporting Outcomes From NIH Peer Review](#) to be consistent with the [Unified Funding Strategy](#), which considers peer review outcomes in the context of NIH priorities and strategic plans. Applicants would no longer receive the final overall impact score or percentile. The score would be used to place applications into one of three categories: most competitive (top 25% of final overall impact scores), competitive (26%-50% of final overall impact scores), or not discussed (less than 50% or not discussed). You can [submit comments online](#) until October 13, 2026. Remember you cannot speak on behalf of the university.

NSF is preparing to implement a new research security policy prohibiting collaborations on NSF-funded projects with entities on U.S. restricted parties list (see [Appendix A](#) of the [Dear Colleague Letter](#)). This would prohibit the use of NSF funds to support collaborations with restricted entities, and senior/key personnel will be prohibited from collaborating with said entities on NSF-funded projects. Under the forthcoming policy: NSF appropriated funds may not be used for grants, contracts, other transactions, or other assistance to an organization if the purpose is to conduct research in collaboration with restricted entities. This funding prohibition also extends to the employees of such restricted entities; and senior/key personnel are prohibited from holding an appointment or position with, or receiving research support from, a restricted entity. Further, senior/key personnel are prohibited from collaborating with a restricted entity, or employee thereof, on research funded by their NSF award.

We are here to facilitate your research. Please reach out with suggestions, questions, or concerns.

Jane Strasser, Ph.D.  
Senior Associate Vice President for Research  
Research Compliance Officer  
Research Integrity Officer

## Animal Care and Use Program

### REMINDERS:

All **new personnel**, whether joining UC for the first time or new to your laboratory, must have an Animal Training Request form submitted by the Principal Investigator or designated proxy. This ensures that all required training is completed before submitting a protocol amendment to designate the personnel on your IACUC-approved protocol.

Each individual with independent access must use their badge to enter LAMS. **Piggybacking is prohibited.** Individuals currently in the onboarding process may not enter LAMS unless attending specific LAMS training sessions.

Ensure that all newly **weaned cages** are supplied with a water bottle and food placed on the cage floor at the time of weaning. Water bottles must remain on the cages for two weeks to allow the animals to acclimate using the Lixit.

Anesthesia systems with out-of-date inspections may not be used for any animal studies. If you own **anesthesia machines**, ensure that they are inspected yearly.

## Controlled Substances

### New Responsible Person Requirements for OBP TDDD Licenses

Effective **February 1, 2027**, [OAC 4729:5-2-01](#) will require the responsible person for a laboratory/research terminal distributor of dangerous drugs to either work a minimum of 8 hours per month at the licensed location **OR** conduct a [documented](#) quarterly in-person, on-site visit. [Learn more about responsible person requirements.](#)

### Moving Controlled Substances to a New Location

Moving to a new campus or building? You must submit address changes to the [OBP](#) and [DEA](#). The DEA may require an on-site inspection of your new location prior to approving the address change. Submit your address changes as early as possible to help prevent delays. Contact the [DEA Regional Office](#) with additional questions.

### Disposal of Controlled Substances

Labs can safely dispose of unused or expired controlled substances via chemical digestion or a reverse distributor. Complete [DEA Form 41](#) (including signatures on page 2) upon disposal and [contact EH&S](#) to arrange for the final disposal of used chemical digestant. A completed DEA Form 222 may be needed for reverse distributors depending on the substances involved. [Learn more about acceptable disposal methods.](#)

## Export Controls, Research Transparency, and Security

### New Conflicts of Interest and Commitment Policy from the Department of Energy

The Department of Energy (DOE) issued a new policy on individual conflicts of interest (COI), organizational conflicts of interest (OCOI), and conflicts of commitment (COC). We will provide more information as it becomes available. Briefly:

1. The policy applies to covered individuals, i.e., anyone who is required to submit a current and pending support disclosure and/or biosketch or resume.
2. Disclosure of outside activities must be updated no later than 15 days after any new actual, apparent, or potential COI or COC arises.

3. Covered individuals must complete COI and COC training prior to engaging in projects and at least every 2 years.
4. COI, OCOI and COC administrative reviews must occur prior to proposal submission.

We will reach out to our DOE-funded investigators with more information as UC policies and processes are updated. If you have questions, please email the Office of Research Security and Ethics at [conflict@ucmail.uc.edu](mailto:conflict@ucmail.uc.edu).

### **New restrictions impact Iranian Nationals in distance learning, academic exchanges, collaborations, and peer review**

The U.S. Department of the Treasury launched Operation Economic Outcast, increasing restrictions for universities engaged with Iranian nationals and institutions. As part of the action, Office of Foreign Assets Control's (OFAC) suspended General License G, which previously authorized certain academic exchanges and educational services involving individuals in Iran or ordinarily resident in Iran. We must now obtain a license from OFAC to recruit students or hire employees. The application process is lengthy and approval is not guaranteed.

The changes may require additional authorization for **recruitment and hiring of Iranian nationals, as well as the provision of certain academic support and educational services to individuals in Iran or ordinarily residing in Iran who do not hold a valid U.S. visa**. They may also affect academic exchanges, research collaboration, data sharing, and other scholarly activities.

Because the sanctions landscape is evolving, please contact **Research Security & Ethics** with questions about Iranian students, employees, collaborators, or research activities at [research\\_security@uc.edu](mailto:research_security@uc.edu).

## **Human Research Protection Program**

### **CITI Account Merge**

To keep accurate completion records and to avoid duplicating previously completed coursework each user should only have one Greater Cincinnati Academic and Regional Health Center CITI Program account. We are unable to delete accounts but if you would like to merge multiple accounts, please submit a support request to [support@citiprogram.org](mailto:support@citiprogram.org) and include the following information:

- Your first and last name.
- The name of your institution.
- The username or member ID for the account to keep.
- The username(s) or member ID(s) for the account(s) to merge.

## **Lab Safety News**

### **NEW FEDERAL BIOSAFETY POLICIES**

The Federal [Policy for Stopping High-Risk Life Sciences Research](#) bans federal funding of any dangerous gain-of-function research that could enhance the transmissibility or virulence of

potential pandemic pathogens and strict International Research of Concern projects tied to countries or entities of concern. Federal agencies are mandated to issue specific implementation guidance by **November 17, 2026**.

NIH has released a draft [Biosafety Policy for Research Involving Biohazards](#) which will replace NIH Guidelines for Research Involving Recombinant or Synthetic Nucleic Acid Molecules. Changes include increased transparency regarding research details (e.g., each viral vector must be listed), safety, and compliance. [Comments must be submitted here](#) and will be accepted until **October 19, 2026**. If implemented as proposed, the new policy would expand IBC oversight to include biological toxins and self-aggregating proteins.

Audit all biological materials currently in use. Confirm that every material has corresponding IBC approval (note: separate approvals are required for different viral vectors). Reach out to [inbiocomm@uc.edu](mailto:inbiocomm@uc.edu) with questions/concerns.

### **LAB ATTIRE**

In accordance with national safety standards and UC's Chemical Hygiene Plan and feet and legs must be covered whenever you are in the lab, regardless of ongoing research.

The **Radiation Safety** Office (RSOf) would like to remind you to take caution when procuring any type of Radiation Generating Equipment (RGE) that may be found online (TEMU, eBay, etc.). Do not assume the equipment is as described. Also know, all new RGE purchases must be reported to the RSOf 30 days **prior to receipt of the equipment** so the use space, users, equipment can be evaluated and reported to the Ohio Department of Health.