

Integrity Matters Spring 2022

Research and Innovation Week 2022 (March 28- April 1) is fast approaching. It's a great opportunity to learn about the **amazing** things happening at UC. Check <https://research.uc.edu/researchweek> for updates.

Protecting your reputation and resources: predatory journals and conferences

Peer review is foundational to what we do, if publishers or conference organizers suggest a process the skimps on peer review it should cause concern. Predatory journals often reach out to authors and offer very fast review/publication times; they charge authors to publish without providing any peer review or copy editing, Make sure that the journals where you publish are known to you and colleagues, are indexed by your field's major indices (e.g., PubMed), and that the editorial board has recognized expertise. The same applies to conferences, use your research skills to verify where you present your work; don't waste your time or money.

Join the effort to develop a scientific integrity framework

The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) seeks [input](#) as they develop a framework to assess and improve scientific integrity policies and practices. The framework will build on the Scientific Integrity Task Force's January 11, 2022 report, [Protecting the Integrity of Government Science](#); Information sought: (1) How scientific integrity policies can address important and emergent issues (e.g., diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility; new technologies; emerging modes of science; and coordination with related policy domains); (2) Criteria to evaluate scientific integrity policy content, implementation, outcomes and impacts; (3) Using scientific integrity evaluation findings to enhance Federal scientific integrity policy and practices; and (4) Ensuring viability and implementation of Federal scientific integrity policies, practices, and culture. Comments should be emailed to ScientificIntegrityRFI@ostp.eop.gov and include "SI RFI" in the subject line of the email. To be considered comments must be submitted by 5:00PM ET on April 4, 2022.

NIH Seeks Comment on Center for Scientific Review Strategic Plan

The Center for Scientific Review's (CSR) draft strategic plan is now open for public comment. This 5-year plan (for 2022–2027) will serve as the roadmap as CSR advances its mission of seeing that NIH grant applications receive fair, independent, expert, and timely scientific reviews—free from inappropriate influences. Comments on the strategic plan will be accepted through March 23, 2022. The full plan may be found at <https://public.csr.nih.gov/sites/default/files/2022-02/draft-CSR-strategic-plan.pdf> comments can be submitted at <https://www.csr.nih.gov/reviewmatters/2022/02/14/seeking-public-comment-on-csrs-2022-2027-strategic-plan/> or emailed to feedback@csr.nih.gov.

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

Jane Strasser, PhD
Senior Associate Vice President for Research
Research Compliance Officer
Research Integrity Officer

ANIMAL CARE AND USE PROGRAM UPDATE

Anesthesia and Vaporizer Machines

Ensuring proper anesthesia is critical to humane care and your research. The IACUC has developed new guidelines to clarify what is required. The new [Anesthesia and Vaporizer Inspection Guidelines](https://researchhow2.uc.edu/docs/default-source/default-document-library/anesthesia-and-vaporizer-inspection-guidelines.pdf) are available at: <https://researchhow2.uc.edu/docs/default-source/default-document-library/anesthesia-and-vaporizer-inspection-guidelines.pdf>

Housing Room Light Cycles

Maintaining consistency of a light/dark cycle is imperative for study reproducibility. Disruptions of the light/dark cycle including exposing animals to light at night disturbs biological rhythms and has widespread physiological consequences. Do not touch any of the override switches on the wall in your housing rooms, this alters animal housing room light cycles. The standard light cycle is 6AM ON/8PM OFF. If you notice deviations, please report to LAMS immediately.

Biological Substance Use in LAMS

Biologics derived from mice outside of UC LAMS may carry mouse pathogens and should not be used on animals housed in a LAMS vivarium without first testing for pathogens that LAMS excludes. It is the responsibility of the researcher to ensure use of techniques, procedures, and materials that minimize risk to their rodent colony, as well as all colonies housed within LAMS. Please contact LAMS@uc.edu in advance to discuss before administering biologics of mouse origin to animals.

EXPORT CONTROLS, RESEARCH TRANSPARENCY, AND SECURITY

NIH Update: Biosketch and Other Support Changes

NIH now requires new [Biographical Sketches](#) and [Other Support](#) format pages for applications and Research Performance Progress Reports (RPPRs). Changes related to electronic signatures and the collection of supporting documentation, where applicable, also took effect Jan. 25, 2022.

The UC Office of Research continues to provide guidance and training on the [International Collaboration](#) website and has created additional [FAQs](#) based on questions collected from researchers and administrators at UC, meant to supplement NIH's FAQs on the [Biosketch](#) and [Other Support and Foreign Components](#). Failure to follow the appropriate

formats may cause NIH to withdraw applications from consideration. For a quick summary of significant changes, please review two short videos: [Biosketch training video](#) and [Other Support training video](#). You can also ask questions and get assistance during the **OoR Virtual Office Hours** (Zoom link is [here](#)) which convenes the first Tuesday of the month from 1:00-4:00 PM and the third Friday of the month from 9:00 AM-12:00 PM.

War in Ukraine

Things are changing daily with the US government's response to the invasion of Ukraine. The US has implemented new sanctions impacting customary trade and financial relations, this may impact your work. If you are doing anything that involves Russia please contact the [Export Controls Office](#).

Cybersecurity Soundbyte

Be aware of your surroundings and who has access to your work. When working in public spaces keep in mind : (NOTE: If you are working with CUI, Export Controlled information or other regulated information, those requirements supersede these guidelines):

1. Be aware of your surroundings and who can see your work. Should others be reading the information? Use a screen privacy protector, turn your monitor to face away from others, and avoid doing sensitive activities in public situations.
2. Lock your computer when you walk away from it – even in your office or at home. If you do not know how to lock your system, please reach out to your local IT team.
3. Physically secure your work/computer if it is left unattended; use cable locks for laptops, leave it in a locked room, or home, or keep it with you.
4. When working with papers containing sensitive information security and confidentiality still apply. For example, your student roster, your unpublished research, or sensitive research should always be stored out of sight. Adopting a personal habit of a cleared desk when not actively working can help with this.
5. When disposing of papers containing sensitive information, do so in an approved manner- they should be shredded or placed in a secured bin to be shredded.
6. When traveling with laptops or papers containing sensitive information, make sure they are secured. Keep them with you; or ensure they are out of sight in a locked car, preferably a trunk. If you do not have a trunk, store it under a seat or under a blanket.
7. Your system and sensitive information should be secured at home too. Family and friends accidentally getting sensitive information or using a system inappropriately is also a risk.

HRPP NEWS

If you missed the February 22nd workshop, [Navigating.Human.Subject.Research](#) the materials including introductions, workshop materials, PowerPoint slide (with hyperlinks) and link to the recording can be found here: [Spring 2022 - 02.22.2022 - OneDrive \(sharepoint.com\)](#)

Updated COVID-19 Guidance for Conducting In-person Human Research - February 23, 2022

Researchers must comply with current university-wide guidance, guidance for any research sites, and previously approved IRB COVID response plans. The guidelines for study participants are generally the same as for other visitors to campus

The current guidance can be found at [UC's Public Health website](#) and on UC Health facilities' [Visitor Restrictions During COVID-19](#) webpage

New protocols must include a description of plans to minimize participant and study staff COVID 19 exposure, transmission, and infection. Study investigators must use their best judgment to limit contact that is not necessary to ensure the safety of the study participant and ensure the integrity of the research. In-person interactions should be switched to remote activities whenever possible. For medical research studies, the same precautions that are taken with patients being seen for the clinical care must be used for research visits.

If your research requires study participants to be within six feet of a researcher or other participant, participants must be screened for COVID-19 symptoms or exposure prior to arrival on campus.

Screening.for.symptoms.- Ask if they have any [Symptoms of Coronavirus infection](#). If they have symptoms, the study visit must be delayed and refer them to the [CDC Coronavirus Self-Checker](#)

Screening.for.Exposure.to.person.who.has.COVID_76- If they were exposed to COVID-19 and are NOT up-to-date on COVID-19 vaccinations, the study visit must be delayed and refer them to the CDC [Quarantine and Isolation](#) webpage

LAB SAFETY NEWS

BIOSAFETY

Upcoming Registration - Human Pluripotent Stem Cell Research

In consideration of the [Guidelines for Human Embryonic Stem Cell Research of the National Academy of Sciences](#), UC is creating a registry of all research involving human embryonic stem cells and certain human induced pluripotent cells. In addition to gathering information on hPSC research, we want to ensure that [prohibited activities](#) are not conducted at UC facilities and/or by UC personnel.

If you work with hPSC and are already registered with the IBC, we will reach out to request additional information. If you are not registered with the IBC, please contact the [Biosafety Office](#).

RADIATION SAFETY

With the successful launch of the GAMMA 2.0 software many Radiation Safety Office related processes have moved online. For example, GAMMA 2.0 will automatically send all Authorized Users (AU's) with radioactive materials an email following the schedule provided below. The email provides a notification of the quarterly inventory being due.

Sealed RAM sources inventory – February 1, May 1, August 1, and November 1

Unsealed RAM source inventory – January 1, April 1, July 1, and October 1

Follow up email reminders will be automatically sent on the 7th, 14th, 21st and 25th of each month if the required inventory is not completed.

Designated Radiation Workers (lab workers) may conduct the inventory, confirming the presence or absence of the source(s) however, it is important the worker completes the full inventory and then clicks the: “Submit Quarterly Inventory Verification for AU Approval” button at the top of the inventory screen. This will generate a notification to the AU informing them the inventory has been conducted. The inventory is not complete until the AU confirms the inventory record is true. The AU must go into the system and click the “AU Approve Inventory Verification” button under the appropriate inventory module, this will prompt the AU to sign off on the inventory record.

Video instructions of this process and others can be viewed online by registering for the online workshop titled “Gamma 2.0 Radiation Safety Application (RSOf Narrated Presentations)” on the CPD website: <https://ce.uc.edu/cpd/Categories> or on YouTube at the following link: [Quarterly Inventory Verification](#)