



Research Integrity and Compliance

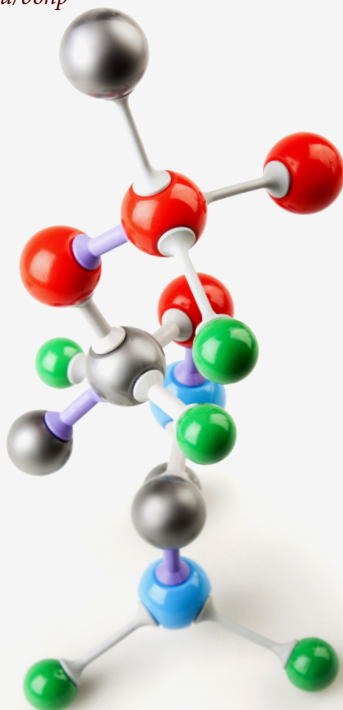
The Highest Standards of Research Integrity

The Division of Research is committed to promoting and ensuring the highest standards of research integrity in proposing, conducting, and reporting research. Through its various programs, the Division of Research provides information and guidance in areas such as biosafety, animal use and care, human research protection, conflict of interest, biosafety occupational health, export controls, good laboratory practices, scientific misconduct, and responsible conduct in research.

Biosafety Occupational Health Program

The Biosafety Occupational Health Program (BOHP) is an integral part of the University's commitment to provide a safe and healthy work environment. Its mission is to ensure that all people potentially exposed to hazardous biological agents or animals in the course of their work activities at Texas A&M are offered the best possible information regarding those hazards and access to competent occupational health services and providers.

rcb.tamu.edu/bohpl



Biosafety Program

All research, teaching, and testing activities conducted by a member of the faculty or staff of Texas A&M involving any of the agents/materials listed below, must be approved by the Texas A&M Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) prior to initiation:

- Pathogens and potential pathogens of humans, animals, or plants;
- Materials potentially containing human pathogens including human and non-human primate blood, tissue, and cell lines;
- Recombinant DNA (and RNA) including creation or use of transgenic plants, animals, and microbes;
- Toxins of biological origin;
- Select agents and toxins including strains and amounts exempted from the select agent regulations;
- Any material requiring a CDC import license or a USDA permit.

The IBC serves Texas A&M employees as well as employees from the A&M System members.

rcb.tamu.edu/biohazards



Animal Welfare Office

Texas A&M has established an Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) that meets all federal requirements, as defined in the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) and the Public Health Service Policy (PHS) on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals. The Animal Welfare Office serves as the liaison between the IACUC and the research community.

The IACUC is responsible for the oversight, evaluation, and assurance of compliance for the institution's animal care and use program and A&M System members as outlined in the PHS Assurance, AWA, and the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals. The IACUC committee serves Texas A&M researchers and educators, as well as researchers and educators from A&M System members. Clinical research conducted in the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences using client-owned animals must be approved by the Clinical Research Review Committee (CRR) and the IACUC. Individuals who work with animals or are at risk from animal exposure must be enrolled in a Biosafety Occupational Health Program and informed of the risks associated with the animal exposure.

rcb.tamu.edu/animals

Human Research Protection Program

The Human Research Protection Program (HRPP) is a resource for anyone involved with human subjects research at Texas A&M: potential research participants, current research participants, investigators, administrators, or interested community members. In conjunction with the federally mandated Institutional Review Board (IRB), the HRPP works to assure the protection of human research participants and to ensure Texas A&M's compliance with laws and regulations governing human subjects research. Any human subjects research conducted by Texas A&M faculty, staff, or students must be reviewed and approved prior to being initiated. Also, any party wishing to conduct research using Texas A&M employees or students as subjects must secure authorization prior to recruiting participants.

rcb.tamu.edu/humansubjects/hrpp

Export Controls

Export control laws and regulations establish the conditions under which controlled information and items can be transmitted to anyone outside the United States and to foreign persons and entities in the United States. They also restrict or prohibit the transaction of business with certain countries, persons, and entities that have been sanctioned by federal agencies as a threat to important U.S. interests. All Texas A&M employees and students must be aware of and are responsible for the export control implications of their work and must ensure that their activities conform to export control laws and regulations. There are severe institutional and individual sanctions for violations of export control laws and regulations, including the loss of research funding, loss of export privileges, and/or criminal and civil penalties.

vpr.tamu.edu/resources/export-controls

Good Laboratory Practices

Following Good Laboratory Practices (GLPs) means more than practicing good science when conducting research experiments. GLPs are a set of federal regulations that apply when conducting in-vitro or in-vivo safety studies and in some cases efficacy studies on certain human or animal products regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Investigators are strongly encouraged to contact the GLP Program well in advance of committing to conduct GLP studies to receive assistance and to ensure the requirements can be met and avoid delays in initiating research.

Responsible Conduct of Research

Texas A&M is responsible for promoting academic practices that encourage honesty and scientific integrity and developing rules and procedures for dealing with allegations or other indications of fraud or serious misconduct. All members of Texas A&M share responsibility for maintaining ethical standards of research and scholarship and reporting suspected abuse of these standards.

Financial Conflict of Interest

In order to promote objectivity in research, researchers are required to disclose any involvement that might constitute a financial conflict of interest (FCOI) as applied to all externally sponsored research activities. Researchers must submit online via Maestro an Annual Financial Disclosure Statement to the FCOI office 1) within 30 days of employment, 2) annually, not later than August 31, and 3) within 30 days after acquiring a new significant financial interest requiring disclosure.



Scientific Misconduct

The Texas A&M University System defines misconduct in research or scholarship as the fabrication, falsification, or plagiarism in proposing, performing, reviewing, or reporting research. It does not include honest error or honest differences in interpretations or judgments of data. A Texas A&M employee who becomes aware of possible misconduct in research or scholarship should immediately report the concerns and/or allegations to their supervisor, department head, or dean, who will consult immediately with the designated officer regarding the nature of the concerns and/or allegations.

Program Contacts

- Animal Welfare Office 979.845.1828
- Biosafety 979.862.4549
- Biosafety Occupational Health Program 979.845.6649
- Conflict of Interest 979.862.7986
- Export Controls Program 979.862.6419
- Good Laboratory Practices Program 979.845.1263
- Human Research Protection Program 979.458.4067
- Scientific Misconduct 979.845.8585

