

DRI MOUA Requirement for Research Involving Biological Agents

DRI requires a Memorandum of Understanding Agreement (MOUA) for all DRI laboratory research involving biological agents.¹ Via a cooperative agreement with the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR), we use their MOUA application form and their Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC²) for MOUA review/approval. The forms including the instructions for filing an MOUA are online at <http://www.unr.edu/ehs/program-areas/lab-safety/biosafety>. The UNR IBC reviews the use of all biological materials (not just those at BSL-2 or higher), so please be sure your application addresses BSL-1 materials as well as those that fall into the higher biosafety level categories. In addition, if you use lentiviral vectors, you will need to complete a second form specifically for these materials.

Please email your completed MOUA forms directly to Mike Kivistik, UNR EH&S (kivistik@unr.edu). Your application must be signed, so be sure to scan the signature page and include it with your completed application package. Please be sure to also copy DRI EH&S (mmcrae@dri.edu) on all correspondence with Mike in case he has questions about your application that he would like the EH&S Office to address before your application is sent to the full committee for review and approval.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact DRI EH&S. If the EH&S Office cannot answer your questions, we will pass them on to UNR Biosafety and request that you be contacted by the appropriate staff member directly. (Alternately, you may cut out the middle person (the EH&S Office) and contact Mike Kivistik at 775-784-4981.)

¹ For the purposes of this notice, biological agents include microorganisms; recombinant DNA; biological toxins; human blood, body fluids, tissues, and cells; nonhuman animal tissue and cells; plant tissues and cells; and insect tissues and cell cultures.

² Information about the UNR IBC is online at <http://www.unr.edu/ehs/safety-committees/institutional>