

DUAL USE RESEARCH OF CONCERN (DURC)

Dual use research of concern (DURC) is life sciences research that, based on current understanding, can be reasonably anticipated to provide knowledge, information, products, or technologies that could be directly misused to pose a significant threat with broad consequences to public health and safety, agricultural crops and other plants, animals, the environment, or national security.

DURC Policy

EH&S and the Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC), with assistance from the UW Office of Research, are responsible for developing and implementing the University's DURC policy. Research involving botulinum neurotoxins *in any quantity* and a subset of select agents must be reviewed for DURC. If research with these agents is anticipated to create any of the below categories of experimental effects of concern, it can be DURC.

Agents and toxins subject to DURC policy:

1. Botulinum neurotoxins (any quantity)
2. Avian influenza virus (highly pathogenic)
3. Bacillus anthracis
4. Burkholderia pseudomallei
5. Burkholderia mallei
6. Foot-and-mouth disease virus
7. Francisella tularensis
8. Reconstructed 1918 influenza virus
9. Rinderpest virus
10. Toxin-producing strains of Clostridium botulinum
11. Yersinia pestis
12. Risk Group 4 agents not permitted at UW: Ebola virus, Marburg virus, Variola major and minor viruses

Experimental categories of concern:

1. Enhances the harmful consequences of the agent or toxin
2. Disrupts immunity or the effectiveness of an immunization against the agent or toxin without clinical or agricultural justification
3. 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
4. Increases the stability, transmissibility, or the ability to disseminate the agent or toxin
5. Alters the host range or tropism of the agent or toxin
6. Enhances susceptibility of a host population to the agent or toxin
7. Generates or reconstitutes an eradicated or extinct agent or toxin listed above

UW DURC Policy and Procedures

- 1. Training:** [EH&S online DURC training](#) is required initially and every three years for Principal investigators (PIs) and research personnel if their research involves the agents covered in DURC policy.
- 2. DURC Application:** PIs are required to complete and submit a [DURC application](#) to EH&S if research involves any agents subject to DURC policy. This is required initially and then every three years or more frequently if there is a change in agents or experimental effects. The three year renewal will be made concurrent with the Biological Use Authorization (BUA) renewal date when applicable.
- 3. DURC Institutional Review Entity (IRE):** A DURC IRE is required to assess all research with agents subject to DURC policy. The DURC IRE will be a standing subcommittee of the IBC comprised of faculty, staff, and consultants with expertise in select agent research and regulations, biomedical and infectious disease research, biosafety, bioethics, animal research, environmental health and safety, export control, and UW policies and procedures.
- 4. Risk Mitigation Plan:** If research with the listed agents is anticipated to involve any experimental effects of concern and is considered DURC, the IRE will work with the PI and the funding sponsor to develop a risk mitigation plan that will be updated annually or more frequently as needed.

See the [DURC Review Flow Chart](#) for more information on the process.

Regulations and Resources

- [U.S. Government Policy for Institutional Oversight of Life Sciences DURC](#)
- [Federal Register: Notice Response to Comments and Notice of Final Action Regarding the United States Government Policy for Institutional Oversight of Life Sciences DURC](#)
- [FAQs on the U.S. Government Policy for Institutional Oversight of Life Sciences DURC](#)
- [A Companion Guide to the U.S. Government Policies for Oversight of Life Sciences DURC](#)
- [Case Studies on the Implementation of the U.S. Government Policy for Institutional Oversight of Life Sciences DURC](#)
- [National Institutes of Health \(NIH\) Office of Science Policy: DURC](#)
- [NIH: National Science Advisory Board for Biosecurity \(NSABB\)](#)
- [U.S. Department of Health and Human Services](#)
- [Dual Use Research: A Dialogue](#) video
- [Training slides](#) provided by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Questions?

Questions about DURC can be directed to the Institutional Contact for Dual Use Research:
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