NEWS from the IBC

MANDATORY BIOSAFETY TRAINING

Please be reminded that the grace period for compliance with the IBC Policy on Mandatory Biosafety Training is approaching. The IBC office sends out email reminders to Principal Investigators. CLASSES ARE FILLING UP QUICKLY. Please email ehs-training@tufts.edu to register for an upcoming class as soon as possible. Training dates by campus are listed on the IBC website, http://www.tufts.edu/central/research/IBC/index.htm

IBC SUBMISSION PROCESS

Please submit the Biohazardous Materials Registration form and Amendment form directly to ibc-office@tufts.edu. Once in the IBC administrative system it can be tracked and sent to a Biosafety Officer for pre-review. A pre-review provides a quicker and more efficient review.

PROPER MEDICAL AND BIOLOGICAL WASTE DISPOSAL

Environmental Health and Safety and IBC representatives often hear concerns from lab workers about BIOHAZARDOUS WASTE DISPOSAL. The term BIOHAZARDOUS includes all medical and biological waste. The issues tend to focus on what happens to waste in the lab and when transported to autoclave facilities. For example:

1. Red bags being collected, but then placed in a regular garbage bag.
2. Items being removed from red bags to non-red bags in order to make them less full.
3. Red bags being dragged across the floor and ripping with leakage of contents.
4. Sharps containers overflowing. These containers should only be filled to 80% capacity.

WHAT TO DO:
At the various facilities around the Tufts and TMC campuses, there are different systems in place to manage “biohazardous” waste. If you see improper handling, INTERVENE and IMMEDIATELY report the issue.

ALERT A BIOSAFETY OFFICER RIGHT AWAY!

BIOSAFETY STAFF
Kim Parker—Medford Biosafety Officer—617-636-2919
Julien Farland—Grafton Biosafety Officer—508-887-4483
Kathy Joseph—Boston Biosafety Officer—617-636-0964

*For additional details on proper medical and biological waste disposal, please go to: http://publicsafety.tufts.edu/ehs/?pid=90#

FOR THE PIs

The safe handling of rDNA, and rDNA-containing WASTE, is considered to be a Principal Investigator Responsibility by the NIH Office of Biotechnology Activities (OBA), and here at Tufts and Tufts Medical Ctr. institutions, we consider this to be a COMMUNITY RESPONSIBILITY.

From the NIH Guidelines

“While conducting research subject to the NIH Guidelines, the PI must report any significant problems pertaining to the operation and implementation of containment practices and procedures, violations of the NIH Guidelines, or any significant research-related accidents and illnesses to the IBC, OBA, and, as applicable, the Biological Safety Officer, Greenhouse or Animal Facility Director, and other appropriate authorities.”