NEWS from the IBC  

MANDATORY BIOSAFETY TRAINING

Please make sure that everyone listed on an active IBC registration completes the Mandatory IBC training. The IBC office sends out email reminders to Principal Investigators with people that still need to attend and the dates and time of upcoming classes. 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.

HYDROPHOBIC FILTERS

During visits to labs, the Biosafety Officers have noted a lack of hydrophobic filters for aspiration both on the lab bench and in the biosafety cabinet. We hope this information will help improve practices in the laboratory.

CDC and NIH have some guidance information and a picture in a document entitled Primary Containment for Biohazards http://www.cdc.gov/od/ohs/biosfty/bsc/bsc.htm

The Biosafety Office recommends a hydrophobic filter that incorporates the HEPA. Keeping both the moisture and the agent out of the vacuum system or pump helps prolong their life, user safety and the safety of those who maintain the systems/pumps. One example of a hydrophobic filter is the Whatman Vacu-Guard. In the Lab Safety Supply catalog, there are 2 sets of 10 packs that will work; items 53274 or 99978. There are other filters that also do the same job including Vacushield® which is item Z268518 for Sigma-Aldrich and 55095-006 for VWR. The filters are said to have a 3 month life span. Most people find it’s closer to 2. They really don’t work once they become wet. The splarger must come down past the arm of the flask to prevent moisture and contamination.

BIOSAFETY STAFF

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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.”