

The purpose of this document is to familiarize the University community with the requirements that must be met during the planning, initiation and termination of experiments involving recombinant or synthetic nucleic acid molecules.

Recombinant & synthetic nucleic acids are not only important tools in scientific research, but also impact the diagnosis and treatment of diseases and genetic disorders in many areas of medicine and can also be used in agriculture to produce pest and disease resistant crops that lead to better yields for farmers. As a result of these uses, many researchers have begun utilizing this technology for their studies.

Introduction

In the context of the NIH Guidelines, recombinant and synthetic nucleic acids are defined as: “(i) molecules that a) are constructed by joining nucleic acid molecules and b) that can replicate in a living cell, i.e., recombinant nucleic acids; (ii) nucleic acid molecules that are chemically or by other means synthesized or amplified, including those that are chemically or otherwise modified but can base pair with naturally occurring nucleic acid molecules, i.e., synthetic nucleic acids, or (iii) molecules that result from the replication of those described in (i) or (ii).” Any research that meets the definitions listed above, must comply with the

that involve recombinant or synthetic nucleic acids must be registered . Research projects will be assessed by the IBC on an individual basis.

Application for Research Involving Recombinant or Synthetic Nucleic Acids

You must register your research project with the IBC to initiate the approval process. Registration forms or further information about the registration process may be obtained on the [EHS website](#). If you have previously registered your project, you are required to update registration information whenever there are changes in the facilities, personnel, and experimental protocols associated with the project.

Disposal of Recombinant or Synthetic Nucleic Acid Materials

All recombinant/synthetic nucleic acid materials must be disposed of via the University's Biological Waste Stream.