

## **Individual Code of Conduct for the University of Chicago Select Agent Program and the Howard Taylor Ricketts Laboratory**

For the individual scientist, an ethical code of conduct centers on personal integrity. It embodies, above all, a commitment to intellectual honesty and personal responsibility for one's actions, and to a range of practices that characterize the responsible conduct of research, including:

- Intellectual honesty in proposing, performing, and reporting research;
- Accuracy in representing contributions to research proposals and reports;
- Fairness in peer review;
- Collegiality in scientific interactions, including communications and sharing of resources;
- Transparency in conflicts of interest or potential conflicts of interest;
- Protection of human subjects in the conduct of research;
- Humane care of animals in the conduct of research; and
- Adherence to the mutual responsibilities between investigators and their research teams.

In the realm of research involving the study of Select Agent pathogens and toxins, additional responsibilities include:

- Awareness of and adherence to all safety protocols associated with research conducted at the H.T. Ricketts Laboratory. In addition to standard operating procedures for work in BSL2 and BSL3 labs and in the ABSL3 vivarium, this includes the following:
  - Knowledge and awareness of Select Agent and agent profiles for non-Select Agent organisms as described in the HTRL Agent Profile Summaries.
  - Knowledge and awareness of Health Watch Protocols as described in the HTRL Biosafety Plan.
  - Knowledge and awareness of spill and exposure protocols as described in the HTRL Biosafety Plan.
  - Knowledge of and adherence to reporting requirements related to spills, exposures, potential releases from containment and near misses related to Select Agents or related to spills, exposures or near misses involving non-Select Agent organisms in a BSL2 or BSL3 lab.
  - Knowledge and awareness of all emergency response protocols (e.g., fire, tornado, inclement weather) as described in the HTRL Emergency Response Plan.
- Completion of all training requirements associated with the Select Agent Program, whether required annually (or periodically) or on a one-time basis.
- Completion of all proficiency training requirements as outlined in the "Escorted Access" Program of the HTRL.
- Completion of all Occupational Health requirements, including documentation of required physicals, medical clearances, and/or vaccinations.
- Immediate reporting to the Principal Investigator and Responsible Official of any situation that compromises an individual's ability to perform as required in a BSL3 or ABSL3 laboratory, including physical or psychological issues.

- Immediate reporting to the Principal Investigator and Responsible Official of behavior or activities that are inconsistent with HTRL Safety and Security Plans.
- Awareness of and adherence to security protocols necessary to protect and secure the Select Agents with which an individual works. Included in this responsibility to maintain security are the following:
  - Awareness of, and adherence to, all security protocols required by the Protective Force of Argonne National Laboratories. These procedures are found in the HTRL Security Plan.
  - Participation in all required training programs and drill exercises conducted at the H.T. Ricketts as instructed by the Responsible Official or Alternate Responsible Official.
  - Protection of all access mechanisms, including identification/access cards, personal identification codes or numbers, and/or keys.
  - Immediately reporting to the Responsible Official/Alternate Responsible Official of lost keys, identification cards, and/or compromised access codes.
  - Immediate reporting to the Responsible Official/Alternate Responsible Official of Select Agent loss or release, theft, or any evidence of inventory tampering.
  - Protection of potentially sensitive information and awareness of reporting and publication requirements associated with research with dual use potential.

I acknowledge that I have read, understood and will honor my responsibilities under this Code of Conduct. I acknowledge that I have been provided the informational documents referred to above and have reviewed these documents.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE: \_\_\_\_\_