EHSO

EXCELLENCE THROUGH
INTEGRITY, COOPERATION AND LEADERSHIP

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Environmental Health and Safety Office

Enterprise-wide Responsibility

- Research
- Healthcare
- Facilities

Functional Units

- Research Safety
- Environmental Programs
- Radiation Safety
- Industrial Hygiene
- Occupational Safety

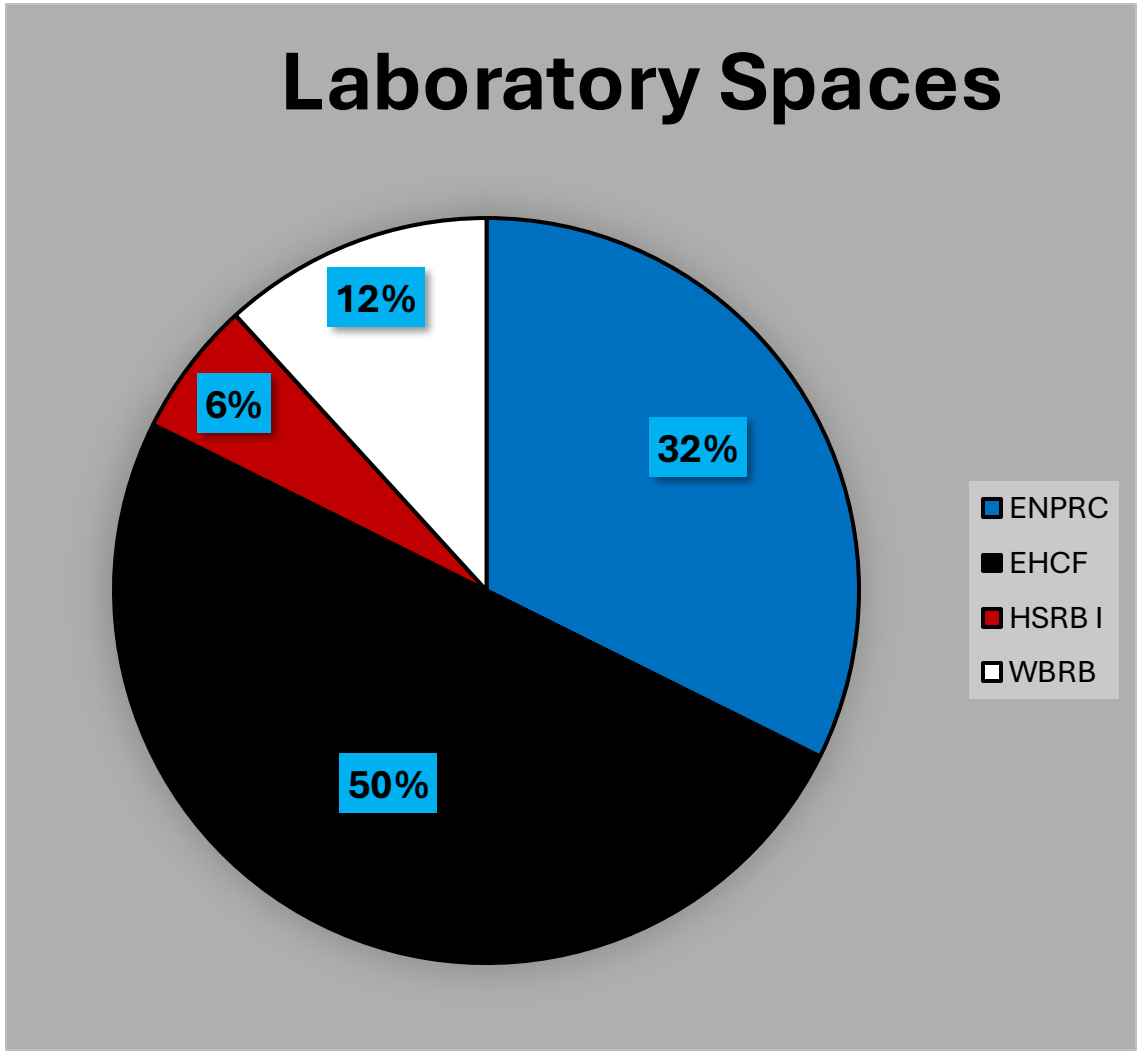
Emory Environmental Health and Safety Office (EHSO)

- EHSO has institution wide Environmental Health and Safety responsibility including aspects of Emory Healthcare
- EHSO is composed of five divisions including Radiation Safety, Industrial Hygiene, Occupational Safety, Environmental Programs, and Research Safety. All work collaboratively to support Emory's mission.
- Research Safety oversight includes:
    - Institutional Biosafety Committee
    - Laboratory oversight (inspections)
    - Laboratory design
    - Engineering Controls
    - Waste disposal
- Due to the very specific demands and uniqueness of Biosafety Level 3 and Animal Biosafety Level 3 laboratories EHSO has an FTE dedicated to high containment.

EHSO Responsibilities in High Containment Laboratory Operations

- Assessments and strategies for mitigating risk of exposure
- Development and implementation of comprehensive biosafety protocols and thorough training of all facility users
- Maintenance of Institutional approved protocols for all research activities involving biological, materials including recombinant genetic materials.
- Monitoring of safety equipment as well as waste disposal systems.
- Development of emergency response plans for incident and personnel evacuation.
- Investigate safety incidents and implement corrective actions.
- Coordination of annual recertification of facility.
- Ensure local, state and federal regulatory compliance.

Emory High Containment Laboratories



- High containment laboratories support over twenty PI and Co-PI at various centers and programs:
  - Emory National Primate Research Center (ENPRC)
    - ✓ Vaccine Research Center
    - ✓ Center for Aids Research
    - ✓ TB Research Unit
  - Health Sciences Research Building I (HSRB I)
    - ✓ RADx Variant Task Force,
    - ✓ Laboratory of Biochemical Pharmacology (LOBP)
  - Health Sciences Research Building II (EHCF)
  - Whitehead Biomedical Research Building (WBRB)
    - ✓ Center for Transmission of Airborne Pathogens (CTAP)
    - ✓ Centers of Excellence for Influenza Research and Response (CEIRR)

Updates

Memo received from Lyric Jorgenson, Ph.D.
Associate Director for Science Policy, NIH
March 28th, 2025

Member Roster:

- The NIH Office of Science Policy (OSP) will publicly post the rosters of all active IBCs registered with OSP via the IBC-Registration Management System (RMS).
- Will include all members identified by name and role on the committee.
- NIH will be posting the contact information for the IBC Chair, Biological Safety Officer, and IBC Contact.

IBC Minutes:

- Provisions of this memo only apply to meetings taking place on, or after June 1, 2025.
- Minutes from meetings before that date do not need to be posted but still must be provided to members of the public upon request.
- Institutions may opt to voluntarily post this information in the spirit of transparency.

DURC guidelines published May 2024 (to be effective May 6th 2025)

- Listed 91 agents and 9 experimental conditions to fall under DURC
- Agents include all select agents, Risk Group 4 (RG) viruses, certain RG 3 bacteria and RG 3 viruses.
- Currently at Emory we have 13 agents based on the new guidelines and 43 PIs working with them
- Per new guidelines, even exempt SA need to be included
- Currently we are in the process of evaluating the projects of 43 PIs to make sure they meet the NEW DURC requirement including the experimental conditions.
- A training module and a new DURC survey questions have been developed and were ready to be rolled out on May 6th but paused due to the new EO on May 5th.

Executive Order: "Dangerous Gain of Function Research" Summary

May 5th, 2025

OSTP is instructed to establish guidance for all relevant agencies to immediately end all funding of (i) "dangerous gain-of-function" research (as defined in the EO) conducted by foreign entities in countries of concern (COC) or other countries "with inadequate oversight" to ensure compliance with U.S. oversight standards and policies and (ii) other life science research that is occurring in COCs or other countries with inadequate oversight to ensure compliance with U.S. oversight standards and policies and that could reasonably pose a threat to public health and safety or to either economic or national security.

Within 120 days, OSTP shall revise or replace the 2024 "United States Government Policy for Oversight of Dual Use Research of Concern and Pathogens with Enhanced Pandemic Potential" policy in a manner that strengthens oversight, increases accountability through enforcement, audits, and improved public transparency, and clearly defines the scope of covered research.

Within 90 days, OSTP shall revise or replace the 2024 "Framework for Nucleic Acid Synthesis Screening" framework to ensure it effectively encourages providers of synthetic nucleic acid sequences to implement comprehensive, scalable, and verifiable synthetic nucleic acid procurement screening mechanisms to minimize the risk of misuse.

METHYLENE CHLORIDE

EPA 751.109

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The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a new Methylene Chloride Regulation under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) in May 2024. Under this new regulation, Emory is required to conduct exposure monitoring for the use of Methylene Chloride on campus. The EPA has established new personnel exposure limits that are lower than those established by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

- A survey has been sent to all research laboratories to evaluate the current possession and use of Methylene chloride
- Individual laboratories are being contacted based on the survey input to conduct monitoring on use of methylene chloride

Questions