

# National Biosafety Stewardship Month

## September 2015

In 2014, the National Institute of Health (NIH) declared September as National Biosafety Stewardship Month to serve as a reminder of the importance of adherence to biosafety standards. The NIH was among those urging all U.S. laboratories working with biohazardous materials to reinforce their attention to safe research practices.

For 2015, the Department of Environmental Health & Safety and the Office of Research Integrity (ORI) are working together to raise awareness about Biosafety Level 2 research compliance and safety at FIU.

### What is considered Biosafety Level 2 research?

The Biosafety Level 2 (BSL2) designation applies to any clinical, diagnostic, teaching, or research facility working with agents associated with human disease that pose moderate hazards to personnel and the environment. Examples of agents/materials assigned to this containment level are Hepatitis B Virus, HIV, *Salmonella*, and *Toxoplasma*. BSL2 is also appropriate when work is done with any human-derived blood, body fluids, tissues, or cell lines. In addition, a similar designation would apply to animals infected with these agents/materials (Animal Biosafety Level 2 or ABSL2).

### Requirements for Conducting Biosafety Level 2 Research

- Have your facility set-up, evaluated, and approved for BSL2 research
  - BSL2 practices, equipment, and facilities:  
[http://ehs.fiu.edu/Programs/BioSafety/Documents/BMBL\\_5th\\_Edition.pdf](http://ehs.fiu.edu/Programs/BioSafety/Documents/BMBL_5th_Edition.pdf)
  - Contact the FIU Biosafety Office for evaluation and approval at (305) 348-3387
- Obtain approval from the appropriate FIU Research Compliance Committees
  - Animal research – FIU IACUC
  - rDNA and synthetic nucleic acids – FIU IBC
  - Human subjects – FIU IRB
  - Blood-borne pathogens and Infectious agents– FIU EH&S
- Protect yourself through safe work practices
  - Complete the required safety and task-specific training
  - Implement Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for working with BSL2 materials
  - Be careful when working with sharps and needles
  - Restrict access to materials to only authorized individuals

For more information on Biosafety Level 2 research at FIU, refer to the FIU Biosafety webpage <http://ehs.fiu.edu/Programs/BioSafety/Pages/default.aspx> and click on the FIU Biosafety Manual.