

## **BIOSAFETY COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The UWO Biosafety Officer is responsible for administering the Biosafety program on a day-to-day basis, for providing technical advice on safety procedures and equipment and relevant regulations.

### **Mandate**

The University of Western Ontario Biosafety Committee (UBSC) is a sub-committee of the University Health and Safety Committee (UHSC) and makes recommendations to the UHSC on all matters pertaining to biosafety at Western. The UBSC is also mandated to fulfil the responsibilities of a Research Institution Biological Safety Committee as described in the most current version of the Health Canada Laboratory Biosafety Guidelines. These responsibilities include verifying that all work with biohazardous agents which is carried out at the University of Western Ontario is in accordance with the safety practices as stated in the Guidelines. The UBSC provides advice with respect to biosafety to the University's affiliated research institutions (Robarts Research Institute [RRI], Lawson Health Research Institute [LHRI], London Regional Cancer Centre [LRCC], Child and Parent Research Institute [CPRI], Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Research Station [ACRC]), which are each represented on the Committee.

### **Terms of Reference**

1. To make recommendations to the University Health and Safety Committee on actions and/or policies related to biosafety at the University of Western Ontario.
2. To monitor and promote compliance with the established policies and procedures as set out in the most current version of the Health Canada Laboratory Biosafety Guidelines, and other government and University guidelines related to biosafety
3. To develop and recommend policies and procedures to meet or exceed the requirements for each containment level as stated in most current version of the Health Canada Laboratory Biosafety Guidelines, or the most current version of Canadian Food Inspection Agency document: Containment Standards for Veterinary Facilities, or other applicable standards for teaching and research.
4. To approve protocols involving the use of potentially biohazardous agents including genetically modified organisms, transgenic or genetically modified plants or insects, human pathogens, animal pathogens, and animals potentially carrying infectious zoonotic agents. To confirm the appropriate containment level for the work; to verify that the appropriate facilities and procedures are in use and to ensure that appropriate procedures for the use, storage and disposal of the named agents are followed.
5. To review and approve applications for greenhouse or field trials of genetically modified organisms. To review and approve projects involving biohazardous agents and their use in the Biotron project.
6. To review the procurement and use of biohazards, including animals, human source tissues, blood and body fluids for research and undergraduate teaching, and to recommend and monitor the appropriate safety precautions.

7. In collaboration with the University Biosafety Officer, to review, recommend and act as an expert resource for biosafety education and training programs at Western.
8. To recommend to the University that appropriate institutional occupational health programs be put in place as necessary to achieve the outcomes stated above.
9. To establish sub-committees to carry out specific tasks as mandated by the UBSC

## **Membership**

1. Voting:
  - Associate Vice-President (Research) (ex-officio), Chair
  - Director, University Workplace Health (ex-officio)
  - Director, Animal Care and Veterinary Services (ex-officio)
  - Director, Occupational Health and Safety (ex-officio)
  - Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry (2 with at least one from the Department of Microbiology and Immunology)\*
  - Faculty of Science (2 with at least one with plant and fungal expertise)\*
  - Faculty of Health Sciences (1)\*
  - Faculty of Engineering (1)\*
  - Physical Plant Facilities Engineering (1)\*
  - Robarts Research Institute (1)\*
  - Lawson Health Research Institute (1)\*
  - London Regional Cancer Centre (1)\*
  - Child and Parent Research Institute (1)\*
  - Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Research Station (1)\*
  - Biotron Project Representative (1)\*

\*Appointed by Dean of Faculty, Director of Department, or Scientific Director of Centre/Institute

2. Non-Voting: University Biosafety Officer  
SOGS member

