

Policies and Guidelines for Research & Researchers at Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute (VCHRI)

6. Other Regulatory Requirements for Conduct of Research

6.1 Research involving animals

The use of animals in research at VCHRI is conducted in accordance with UBC policy (see Appendix 2). UBC is committed to the humane and ethical care and use of animals and adheres to the principle that in order for animal use to be justifiable in scientific research, the research must have a reasonable expectation of providing a benefit to the health and welfare of people or of animals, or of advancing basic knowledge. To ensure that this commitment is carried out, UBC has established an Animal Care Committee to facilitate research that complies with Canadian Council on Animal Care Guidelines and with the Russell-Burch tenet of "reduction, replacement and refinement".

Any research project involving the use of animals must have the approval of the UBC Animal Care Committee (ACC). Applications for animal use must be submitted on the ACC Application to Use Animals for Research form, which is available from the Manager, UBC Animal Care Committee, or from the UBC web site at <http://www.acc.ubc.ca>.

A separate Animal Care Certificate is required for each project and each funding source (with a project title and sponsor name that are identical on all relevant documents). For further information, contact the Manager, Animal Care Committee, UBC Office of Research Services.

6.2 Research involving biohazardous agents

Researchers working or proposing to work with cultured animal cells, microorganisms, primate body fluids, animals, or recombinant DNA must consult with the UBC Biosafety Committee.

Applications for research grants, regardless of funding source, must be reviewed by the Biosafety Committee to determine the nature of the research, the most appropriate level of containment, and whether the laboratory facilities are adequate.

The Biosafety Committee will approve research facilities, confirm that safety equipment, including biological safety cabinets, are functioning properly and advise on the training required by the faculty and staff conducting the research. A Biosafety Certificate will be issued when all of the prescribed requirements have been met.

A separate Biohazard Certificate is required for each project and each funding source (with a project title and sponsor name that are identical on all relevant documents). “Application for Biosafety Project Approval” forms are available from the Manager, UBC Biosafety Committee, or from the UBC web site at www.ors.ubc.ca/ethics/biohazard.htm.

6.3 Research involving radioactive materials

Any researcher wishing to use radioactive material in research conducted under his or her supervision, regardless of funding source, must obtain a radioisotope licence. The applicant must have a UBC faculty appointment and have successfully completed the UBC Radionuclide Safety and Methodology course. Applications must be submitted to the Radiation Safety Office and are reviewed by the UBC Committee on Radioisotopes and Radiation Hazards.

Application forms may be obtained from the Radiation Safety Officer (604-822-7052 or radiation@hse.ubc.ca), and further information is available on the UBC web site at www.hse.ubc.ca.