

# **Session VIII. Research Investigator Perspectives on Implementation of the Institutional DURC Policy**

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# Research Efforts

- Environmental microbiology of human pathogens and bioterrorism agents; microbial forensics
- At VCU, attenuated strains *Yersinia pestis*, *Bacillus anthracis*
- Joint project with University of Virginia Select Agent Facility with *Y. pestis* (BSL3)

# DURC Review

- Consider DURC implications during proposal preparation/submission
  - Funding agencies
  - VCU IRE notification
- During the project if the scope of work changes
- VCU IRE review completed, UVA/VCU review BSL3 experiments pending

# Experiences and Challenges

- IRE review process clear/straightforward. Feedback from outside entities, project stakeholders.
- Integrated with other internal reviews (export control, biosafety). Minimal extra delays.
- Challenges communicating context of work; benefits and risks

# Experiences and Challenges

- Engage lab members on dual use research issues
- Discussions at departmental and university level

# DURC Implementation

- DURC considerations have in some ways altered approach to research
  - Proposal planning
  - Modify experimental design based on risks/benefits

# Lessons Learned

- Early discussions with IRE on goals and scope of research
- Feedback during the project
- Integration with other IRE assessments