Developing and Implementing Risk Mitigation Plans

Rebecca Moritz MS, CBSP, SM(NRCM)
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Questions to Ask and Resources to Utilize

• What is the PI already doing?
• What new risks are posed by the research?
• How can those risks be mitigated?

• Consultants/Collaborators
  • Infectious Disease Physicians
  • Public Health Officials
  • Police Department
  • FBI
  • Cybersecurity
  • Communications
  • Legal
  • Export Control
  • Federal Agencies
Content of Risk Mitigation Plans

- Biosafety
- Biosecurity
- PPE
- Operational precautions
- Personnel requirements
- Occupational health plan
- Evaluation of countermeasures
- Oversight of research*
- Notification of funding agency*
- Communication plan*
- Seek advice from federal agencies as needed*
- Description of training
Responsible Communication

• Consider risks and timeframe
• Describe value to science and public
• Develop talking points and press releases to put the research into context
• Identify spokespersons
• Include additional information in manuscripts
Ensuring Compliance

- Most are measures already required and/or being done
- Good communication and partnership with lab
- Training
Lessons Learned

- Think big picture
- Be as transparent as possible
- Combine risk mitigation plans
- Media plans have built-in flexibility
- Process goes smoother if the program officer works directly with the ICDUR