

CHARTER

Biosafety Community Liaison Committee University of Georgia

PURPOSE

To maintain trust and confidence between the University of Georgia, its faculty, staff, and students, and the citizens of the greater Athens area regarding biosafety in UGA facilities.

SCOPE

The Biosafety Community Liaison Committee (BCLC) is established to provide a forum for ongoing discussion and sharing of information among the greater Athens community (including the “campus community”), UGA biosafety administrators, UGA senior administration, and researchers at UGA.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the BCLC are:

- ☐ to provide a forum for community concerns regarding UGA biocontainment research;
- ☐ to provide community representatives with timely information about the objectives, policies, procedures, operations, benefits and risks of research conducted in UGA biocontainment laboratories;
- ☐ to recommend ways to foster communication between the University and the community about UGA biocontainment research.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The overall accountability is to the University community and to the citizens of Athens-Clarke County.

The role of the BCLC is to provide a forum for citizens to voice real or perceived community concerns relative to the programs, operations, safety and security of UGA biocontainment laboratories, and to direct concerns to the individuals responsible for the safe and secure operations of the appropriate facility or facilities. As necessary, BCLC co-chairs will convey the committee’s concerns and views to UGA senior administration through the VP for Research.

BCLC MEMBERSHIP

The BCLC will consist of individual/s from each of the following stakeholder groups:

- ☐ Athens-Clarke County elected officials and staff (2)
- ☐ Athens-region agricultural community (farm/ranch)
- ☐ Athens medical community (2)
- ☐ Athens-area hospital administration (2)
- ☐ Athens veterinary medical community (2)
- ☐ Animal health industry
- ☐ Athens environmental community (2)

- ☐ Athens neighborhood associations (2)
- ☐ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/USDA-SEPRL (2)
- ☐ UGA Institutional Biosafety Committee
- ☐ UGA high-level biocontainment research faculty (2)
- ☐ UGA staff
- ☐ Athens-Clarke County Police
- ☐ UGA undergraduate and graduate students (1 each)
- ☐ Athens FBI office
- ☐ Clarke County School District
- ☐ Clarke County Health Department
- ☐ Athens-Clarke County Fire Department
- ☐ Athens faith community
- ☐ At-large members from Oconee and Oglethorpe counties (2)

In addition, the BCLC will include the following UGA officials or designees of the office as ex officio members:

Ex Officio

- ☐ Representative from UGA Office of the President
- ☐ Vice President for Research
- ☐ Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine
- ☐ Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Affairs, College of Veterinary Medicine
- ☐ Vice President of Public Affairs
- ☐ Director of Community Relations
- ☐ Director, Environmental Health and Safety Division
- ☐ Director of Research Communications
- ☐ Director, Office of Biosafety
- ☐ Chief of Police
- ☐ Office of Security and Emergency Preparedness
- ☐ Director, Animal Health Research Center
- ☐ Facility Manager, Animal Health Research Center
- ☐ Director, Faculty of Infectious Diseases

The Vice President for Research will appoint co-chairs of the BCLC. One co-chair will be from the UGA campus community and one co-chair will be from the non-campus community.

STEERING COMMITTEE

A Steering Committee selected from the BCLC membership will consist of 3 community members and 2 UGA members, in addition to the two BCLC co-chairs. The BCLC co-chairs will serve the same role for the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee will establish the committee's direction, operating policy, procedures, and programmatic matters affecting the BCLC as a whole. The Vice President for Research will designate members of the Steering Committee.

OPERATIONS

Appointment of Community Members to the BCLC

The initial community representatives of the BCLC will include current members of the AHRC CLC. BCLC co-chairs, after seeking input from the community, will recommend individuals to be appointed by the Vice President for Research.

Terms of Appointment

The term of each community representative is 3 years with one third of the membership to be replaced or re-appointed every year starting with the third year of operation.

Meeting Frequency

The BCLC will meet a minimum of two times per year, or more frequently as determined by the Steering Committee. A meeting also may be called by a formal request of five BCLC members. Meeting frequency will be reviewed after one year. The Steering Committee will meet quarterly or more frequently as determined by the co-chairs.

Quorum

Meeting quorum will comprise at least one-half of participants from the community. Any vote will be determined on the basis of a simple majority.

Support

Secretarial, administrative and communication support services to the Committee will be provided by the Office of the Vice President for Research.

Remuneration

Members are volunteers and do not receive any remuneration.

Security

Community representatives on the BCLC are not required to obtain a security clearance.

RELATIONSHIP TO UGA BIOCONTAINMENT FACILITIES

The BCLC will supplement the communications and community relations activities of UGA units with their stakeholders. The committee's activities do not relieve UGA facilities, research entities, institutional committees, or their administrators from their mandated responsibilities or obligations.

Through the Vice President for Research, the BCLC will make recommendations to the Office of Biosafety and UGA biocontainment laboratories on opportunities and appropriate and effective ways of communicating with the community through an open and transparent process.

The process and operation of the BCLC is considered public information and will be communicated openly.