



**Tool for the Self-Assessment of the  
Institutional Biosafety Committee and  
Program of Oversight of Recombinant DNA Research**

The NIH Office of Biotechnology Activities has developed the attached self-assessment tool as a resource that institutions may use to appraise their own Institutional Biosafety Committees and programs of oversight of recombinant DNA research. This resource is based on the requirements articulated in the *NIH Guidelines for Research Involving Recombinant DNA Molecules (NIH Guidelines)*.

Users of this resource should carefully consider the answers to the questions posed, which relate to specific standards and expectations or, in some cases, recommended strategies that can reinforce awareness and sound implementation of the *NIH Guidelines*. As a means of obtaining answers to these questions, users may choose to interview personnel (for example, investigators, laboratory staff, biological safety officers, veterinarians, and animal care staff) with responsibility for implementing the *NIH Guidelines* to obtain information and gauge their understanding. The answers given may be compared to comments from OBA on each question, and users may use the blank spaces provided to make notes about whether and how specific requirements are being fulfilled.

There is no “score” that results from the self-assessment process, it is qualitative in nature. Nonetheless, after completing the self assessment, institutional officials should have a good sense of where their programs are in line with the expectations, standards, and requirements of the *NIH Guidelines*, and where their programs may benefit from modification or augmentation.

We hope you find this resource helpful. Comments are always welcomed and may be sent to OBA at [oba@od.nih.gov](mailto:oba@od.nih.gov)

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