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# BSL-3 Work at Albany Medical College

- Select Agent Approval in 2004
- ABSL-3 opened in 2005
- Working with *Francisella tularensis*, *Yersinia pestis*, H5N1 avian influenza virus
- Only select agent-approved vertebrate BSL-3 in the state of New York



# Working Model

Careful Oversight  
and  
Communication



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= No Surprises!



# Supervision

- Knowledgeable and proactive Responsible Officer to enforce Federal and State regulations
- Full-time and experienced BSL-3 Manager for daily oversight
- PI that supports decisions of the RO and the BSL-3 Manager
- Institutional backing



# Monitoring

- Safety and security
- All AMC employees must pass drug, criminal record, health, and Homeland Security screening
- ALL BSL-3 workers must obtain CDC clearance (including FBI background check) for working with all SAs present in the BSL-3
- Annual research compliance, safety, and BSL-3 training
- Monthly meetings with PIs
- 2 person rule
- Limited access to stocks, careful inventory control, video and swipe card surveillance



# Hallmarks of Integrity

- Record of compliance and research (mis)conduct
- Discretion in outside communications
- Attitude to following rules and working as a team
  - enthusiasm
  - participation in scientific/safety/security discussions
  - willingness to share information/data
  - willingness to accept rules and authority of supervisors
- Ability to follow rules
  - comprehension of rules and oral guidance
- Ability to work under BSL-3 conditions
  - health
  - dexterity (wearing a full pressurized suit)
- Peer/BSL-3 manager reports to PI/RO are mandated
- Willingness of PI/RO to immediately deny/remove access based upon the reports

