

TITLE:**EHS-407, EMORY UNIVERSITY RESEARCH HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE CHARTER**

1.0 Introduction

The Emory University Research Health and Safety Committee (RHSC) provides recommendations for safety policy for approval by the President or his/her designee, on matters relating to biosafety/chemical safety for all types of research (e.g. animal, human) including the control of health hazards associated with the intramural use of microbial agents and toxins, of hazardous chemicals, as well as other workplace, facility, or environmental hazards to faculty, staff and students that may be associated with University activities.

2.0 Duties of the Committee

- Recommends policies regarding laboratory research safety (biological, chemical, and animal safety) and related occupational health and safety matters to the President or his designee for approval and implementation by appropriate organizational components and/or by the Environmental Health and Safety Office (EHSO).
- Provides advice and assistance to the EHSO on matters relating to safety policies.
- Identifies substantive research and operational areas where biological, chemical or other health hazards may exist.
- Recommends procedures for approving activities involving microbial agents and hazardous chemicals that require special containment facilities or practices which, in the judgment of the Committee, may constitute a hazard to faculty, staff, students or the environment.
- Reviews reports of accidents or other incidents resulting in the exposure of faculty, staff, students or the environment to infectious microorganisms or hazardous chemicals as well as reports of noncompliance with established University policies or regulatory requirements regarding the safe conduct of research or use of these materials.
- Establishes working groups and appoints *ad hoc* members or consultants to the Committee as deemed necessary to effectively carry out the duties of the Committee.
- Advises EHSO on State and Federal regulatory requirements as they relate to the purchase, use, storage and disposal of hazardous chemicals or biomedical materials.
- Maintains an effective liaison with the University Occupational Health Advisory Committee.
- Reviews all research associated with the use of biological and chemical materials and toxins, as well as other workplace, facility, or environment hazards.
- Reviews all research associated with Dual Use Research of Concern (DURC).

3.0 Membership and Organization of Committee

- The Committee shall have no less than five (5) members. Each member shall be appointed by the President or his/her designee. One (1) member shall be a non doctoral staff member from an Emory biomedical laboratory who represents laboratory technical staff. At least two (2) members will be selected from the community and shall have no affiliation with Emory University apart from their membership on the Committee. The Committee will also include the Biosafety

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Officer (BSO). The President or his/her designee also may appoint additional members at his/her discretion. In addition, the RHSC may appoint an *ad hoc* consultant(s) to the RHSC to provide expertise as needed.

- The President or his/her designee also may appoint additional persons from any component or discipline in the University to serve in an ex-officio capacity.
- The BSO will serve as Executive Secretary to the Committee. The Associate BSO may serve as Executive Secretary when the Biosafety Officer is not in attendance.
- The Chairperson of the Committee will be appointed by the President or his/her designee from among the Committee membership. The Co-Chairperson(s) will be appointed by the President or his/her designee. The Chairperson and Co-Chairperson will serve concurrent three year terms. The members shall serve overlapping terms of 2 or 3 years duration. The Chairperson, Co-Chairperson(s) and members may be reappointed for additional terms whether consecutive or non- consecutive, at the pleasure of the President or his/her designee.