



Greetings University of Maryland – College Park Research Community,

The Biosafety Office is excited to announce that October 2018 is National Biosafety Month. This year's theme is "**Promoting a Culture of Biosafety and Responsibility**". Now in its 5th year, National Biosafety month is a time when we encourage all members of UMD's research community to focus on and reinforce attention to biosafety and biosecurity standards. We hope to promote and increase awareness of the daily, yet important tasks that create standards of excellence in research. Additionally, we hope to demonstrate how a unified commitment of creating and fostering a culture of safety is what makes the UMD research community a continuing success.

ABSA International is encouraging researchers to capture biosafety in action! If you would like to highlight a particular activity that demonstrates you or your lab's commitment to promoting a culture of biosafety and responsibility, include the hashtag **#GetYourCultureOn** on your social media platform of choice (LinkedIn/Facebook/Twitter/Instagram/etc.).

As Biosafety Month 2018 commences, allow us to introduce ourselves, what we do, and how we can help you meet your research goals safely and in compliance with federal, state and local regulations.



Sherry S. Bohn, PhD, SM(NRCM), CBSP

Role: Biosafety Officer, Responsible Official

Responsibilities: Biosafety program management; customer support; oversight of research using Select Agents; risk assessment; member of IBC and IACUC; injury and incident response and investigation.

I can help you with: Assessing current and emerging research for potential risks; developing IBC and IACUC protocols; assessing unique situations involving biological materials; implementing laboratory level controls and procedures;

interfacing with facilities, design, animal care, and other staff on campus to address your safety concerns/needs; connecting with other researchers and biosafety professionals across the nation to provide implementable solutions to safety challenges.

Why I love what I do: I absolutely love the fact that my position as a biosafety professional allows me to be so close to such a broad and impactful research portfolio! There is always something new to learn, especially at UMD! As a former researcher, I understand the challenges that PIs, post-docs, and students face; but I have seen firsthand the damage work-related illness/injury can do to a career and a family. I am so happy I found a path that allows me to support the advancement of science while helping people go home safely.



Amanda Perlman, MS RLATG

Role: Assistant Biosafety Officer, Alternate Responsible Official

Responsibilities: Develop and provide training, including New Researcher (Undergrads and Grad) and Animal Biosafety Level 2; participate in IBC and IACUC committees; administer Select Agent program; perform laboratory safety audits and incident response and investigation.

I can help you with: BioRAFT (IBC protocols and amendments); Material Transfer Agreements and Assurances; opening and closeout of a biological lab; lab animal safety concerns; risk assessment; injury and incident response and investigation.

Why I love what I do: I love being a part of the University's research community. I earned my BS in Animal Science from UMD, and returning to work here feels like coming home. Every day I have the opportunity to facilitate research from all of the scientific disciplines represented on campus. I am a problem-solver, a teacher, and a student. The study of science is continually evolving, so working in the field of Biosafety means considering potential hazards and developing controls on an ongoing basis to keep the research (and our researchers) safe and productive.



Marissa K. McDonough, MPH

Role: Biosafety Specialist

Responsibilities: Develop and provide training [New Researcher Training (Undergrads and Grads), Biological shipping], laboratory audits, primary containment program (BSC, animal isolators), autoclave management program.

I can help you with: BioRAFT (setting up labs, troubleshooting, training), opening and closeout of a biological lab, and biowaste management questions, audit finding resolution.

Why I love what I do: I get the opportunity to learn about the latest in biotech research, and its application to combating infectious diseases. Learning about new and exciting research challenges me to develop and adapt my biosafety background in ensuring safe and responsible research, while promoting the advancement of science. My academic background is in biochemistry, microbiology, and public health; and through on-the-job experience, I have learned the importance of straightforward and effective scientific communication.

What can I do as a researcher to support 2018 Biosafety Awareness Month?

We are so glad you asked! Everyone in the research lab can have an impact on safe and sustainable use of biological materials. Below are some simple tasks that you may be able to perform RIGHT NOW! Pick an action that matches your level of responsibility in the lab and do it! Take before and after photos if you can! We want to see it all!

Send your completed action to biosafety@umd.edu with “2018 Biosafety Month” in the subject line for a **chance to win a prize!**

- Check the **laboratory door signs** – is the emergency contact information correct? Click here to request a change: [Signage Information Collection Form](#)
- Look at your **sharps containers** – submit a ticket for pickup if they are >3/4 full! [Biological Waste Pickup](#)

- **For PI's** – Go to your BioRAFT dashboard and make sure you see a **“Bio” tab!** If you received this email you self-identified as a user of biological materials; however some labs were not automatically bio-enabled during the implementation process. Contact biosafety@umd.edu if you need to be “Bio-Enabled”!



- Find your **eyewash!** Check to see if it has been tested this week.
- Check your **Biological and Chemical Spill kits** for missing or expired items.
- **For PI's** – Log into BioRAFT and review your **staff** – add or remove staff as needed.

[BioRAFT](#)



- Get everyone involved! **Schedule a lab fridge cleanout day!** Take a peek in the fridge – are all containers and samples labeled? Are there materials that are no longer needed? Expired reagents? Dehydrated petri dishes? Any leftovers from previous students or post-docs?

Resources:

- [ABSA International](#)
- [National Institutes of Health Office of Science Policy: Biosafety and Recombinant DNA Policy](#)
- [Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories \(BMBL\) 5th Edition](#)

