Resilience
There have been a lot of natural disasters in the news lately. The only ‘good’ thing about hurricanes is that impacted communities have advance warning; other disasters (from tornados to cyber-attacks) can arise unexpectedly. Your research is valuable and some of it may be unique and irreplaceable. If your laboratory, office, and/or computer were destroyed, would you be able to resurrect your research? There are things that you can do to protect your data and reagents. The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine has compiled a report on the topic. You can access it here: https://www.nap.edu/resource/24827/081017_Academic_%20Resilience_%20highlights.pdf

The Open Science Framework (OSF) is an open-source workflow management tool developed by the Center for Open Science. Appropriate for any discipline, OSF enables researchers to manage workflows, share files, view project analytics, and more. Osf.uc.edu is the free portal for UC students, faculty, staff and others to manage project files and documents; you can sign in using your UC (6+2) login.

The Center for Health Informatics (CHI) has highly trained data analysts to mine clinical research data effectively, efficiently and compliantly. CHI provides services to UC, UC Health and CCHMC. The CHI is the designated “Honest Broker” for UC Health research data. To ensure its sustainability CHI is now a designated Service Core. Cost for data services is $72 per hour but often fees are waived based on the criteria published here. The new structure will allow the Department of Biomedical Informatics (BMI) and the CHI to continue to collaborate with investigators on grant development, submission and execution where needs include data services. The CHI is expanding capabilities to application development, ‘big data’, analysis and the evolving discipline of data science. If you have any questions please contact the CHI Director Brett Harnett.

As always, if you have a suggestion that will help us to help you, please contact us at research.compliance@uc.edu.

Jane Strasser, PhD
Associate Vice President for Research

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ANIMAL CARE AND USE PROGRAM UPDATE

IT’S ALMOST HERE: The new online system for animal orders, services requests, non-traditional procurement and invoicing goes live on Thursday October 26th. IACUC protocol functions follows shortly thereafter, going live on Wednesday January 3rd. Animal care and use functions are moving to an integrated online system, “Research Activities Portal” (RAP). The new system is designed to streamline your interface with LAMS and the IACUC. During the month of October, web-based training materials will be available to all researchers who utilize Animal Operations (LAMS) functions. Similar training materials will be released in December to assist with IACUC protocol development and submissions. Details of the RAP and educational materials can be found on the Office of Research How 2 Animal Care and Use Program website: http://researchhow2.uc.edu/home/browse-by-roles/animal-care-and-use-program

Reproducibility in Animal Research
“Planning Research and Experimental Procedures on Animals: Recommendations for Excellence” (aka “PREPARE” includes tools to reduce waste and increase reproducibility in animal research. A few minutes spent reviewing PREPARE could save you many hours later.

Household and Pet Store Rodents/Rabbits – Risky Business
Did you know that you could be contaminating your research animals with pathogens? Exposure to household rodents, rabbits, or pet stores that sell animals (e.g. mice, rats, gerbils, hamsters, guinea pigs, rabbits, etc.) is a
known risk factor for the introduction of disease to research animals. The impact a pathogen outbreak has on the research enterprise is HUGE. Here are steps you can take to prevent cross contamination:

- Follow all required PPE and proper barrier practices
- Avoid bringing unnecessary items into animal housing areas
- Avoid any direct exposure with rodents (mice, rats, etc.) and rabbits within 12 hours of entering UC animal areas
- If you are in contact with rodents and/or rabbits outside of the animal facility take a shower (or bath) and change your clothes before you enter a UC animal facility

If you have questions about how to keep your research animals from getting contaminated, you can always contact LAMS (lams@uc.edu or 558-5171) for assistance.

Transporting Animals Outside of LAMS Facilities
Researchers must follow IACUC Policy #3 when transporting rodents from animal housing facilities to IACUC-approved procedural laboratories. Please remember the following:

- Use service elevators where available
- A maximum of two cages/carriers may be hand carried; larger numbers of cages or carriers must be transported using a cart. Do not stack cages more than 2 high
- Cages must have micro-isolator lids on them, the lids must be secured, and cages covered using a clean, breathable drape or similar material to prevent public viewing and contain allergens
- Appropriate species-specific ambient temperatures must be maintained during transportation
- Non-rodent USDA covered species must be transported by LAMS unless otherwise approved by the IACUC

For animals used in biological, chemical, or radiological studies, additional safety requirements may apply (consult with applicable safety office). Please contact LAMS if you have questions (lams@uc.edu or 558-5171).

BIOSAFETY NEWS

Safe Use of Needles
Needle stick injuries are common and readily avoided. These incidents typically occur because the user did not appropriately dispose of used needles or tried to recap the needle. Needles should not be bent, sheared, broken, recapped, removed from disposable syringes, or manipulated by hand before disposal.

Needles are available with safety features that retract or shield the needle. If recapping needles is absolutely necessary, use a device to recap needles or the one-handed scoop technique. If needles need to be reused, do not leave them unprotected on bench tops or loose in drawers. To protect an uncapped needle insert it into a Styrofoam block, cork, or place and seal in a tube, or dispose of in an approved sharps container.

If a needle stick occurs, promptly wash the puncture area with soap and water and contact University Health Services for medical assistance. Needle sticks must be reported to EHS as described in Advisory 12.2. If the needle stick involves infectious or potentially infectious materials and/or recombinant nucleic acid, it must be also reported to the Biosafety Office.

EXPORT CONTROLS NEWS

International Travel & Shipments
When travelling abroad the Export Controls Office can assist you with the proper identification of export control classification of items and information, as well as end-user and destination screening to facilitate compliance. If you are hand-carrying or shipping any UC owned equipment, samples, prototypes, etc. and you travel internationally you may need an export license. If you are traveling to Iran or Cuba there are additional licensing requirements, please notify the Export Controls Office as soon as possible as it may take several months to obtain a license. More information on shipping and traveling internationally can be found on our website.

Purchases
Whenever you purchase items please request the export classification of the product(s) from the vendor or manufacturer. The export classification remains with the product at all times regardless of its use and could still have restrictions even if you can buy it from eBay or Amazon. If you have questions, please contact us at exportco@uc.edu or 556-1426.

HRPP NEWS

Certificates of Confidentiality
The NIH has updated their Certificate of Confidentiality (CoC) Policy. Effective October 1, 2017 all biomedical, behavioral, clinical or other research, in which identifiable, sensitive information is collected, on or after December 13, 2016, will be deemed to have a CoC and must protect the privacy of individuals who are subjects of such research.
Certificates issued in this manner will not be issued as a separate document. Please review your ePAS submission and make any applicable updates to your protocol and/or informed consent forms(s). NIH will continue to consider CoC requests for non-federally funded research that collects or uses sensitive information.

Students and the Outside Activity Report (OAR)
If a student is working on an unfunded research project, (s)he does not need to complete an OAR. The only time an OAR is needed from a student is when they are the PI or Co-PI on a funded research project. This is typically seen for dissertation fellowships. Students should still mark "yes" on the OAR ePAS question when submitting unfunded research projects. This will allow them to move forward with the protocol submission.

Tips for Using Social Media or Texts to Recruit & Communicate with Participants
Study specific social media and text messaging accounts may be used to recruit potential study participants and/or follow up with current research participants. It is important to understand privacy policies and features of the selected medium. Plans for use must be approved by the IRB. To prevent confidentiality breaches and the release of sensitive information do not invite prospective or active study participants to communicate using personal email or social messaging.

Submissions for WIRB
WCG (WIRB-Copernicus Group) has implemented significant revisions to the initial review submission form (IRSF) and the process for consent and assent instructions. Some of the key changes include:

- In the IRSF, when a response requires an additional-supplemental document, a warning symbol and instructions will appear in that line item and at the end of the form
- Financial disclosure form is embedded in the IRSF form
- Translation Request form is no longer embedded in the IRSF form
- Consent and Assent Instructions will no longer be included on the Certificate of Approval but will be located on the informed consent form. Re-consenting requirements will still be included on the Certificate of Approval for the modification review.
- The Consent and Assent Instructions to be used when children are participating in research will no longer be specific to age groups, but rather have reference to the capacity of the child.

For further information, please refer the WCG website: http://wirb.com/Pages/DownloadForms.aspx

Payments to Participants
Ensure that the informed consent form clearly states what visits will, or will not, be paid. Please clearly state whether you will or will not pay for repeated visits (e.g., re-performing lab tests).

UCHealth Research Locations
Whenever a UCHealth facility (e.g. UC Medical Center, West Chester Hospital, Drake Center, etc.) is being used, the informed consent must list the name of each facility where research will occur (see UCH-OCR-REV-SOP-002-02).

RADIATION SAFETY NEWS
The Radiation Safety Office will be closed for the winter break beginning December 23, 2017 through January 1, 2018. Any users of radioactive materials (RAM) should plan RAM shipments to arrive prior to December 22, 2017 as radiation safety staff will not be on site to receive and deliver your order during the break. If there are any plans to order and receive RAM during the winter break, please contact the Radiation Safety Office at (513) 558-4110 to make special arrangements. As usual there will be a Radiation Safety Technician on call (513) 249-6812 during the closure to assist in any emergency.

As we wrap up the calendar year, we would like to remind all individuals (and their staff) who use/possess radioactive materials to ensure completion of the required annual radiation safety refresher training. Instructions for completing the required training can be found at http://researchcompliance.uc.edu/RadSafety/Training.aspx

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES
UC Libraries and the Graduate School are sponsoring a Workshop for Increasing Openness and Reproducibility in Quantitative Research. October 25, 2017. The workshops will take place from 9:00AM-12:00PM in MSB and from 1:30-4:30PM in Langsam Library. Topics covered include project documentation, version control, pre-analysis plans and open source tools. Register at https://goo.gl/Hf5neh; contact Amy Koshoffer at ASKDATA@uc.edu for more information.

The Office of Research has partnered with the regional smart cities initiative, to sponsor the upcoming the Smart Regions Conference being held on October 24-25 at the BB&T Arena in Northern Kentucky. The conference will
be attended by public officials, academic and industry experts and leaders, and community leaders
committed to technology as a tool to improve outcomes for people. For more information go
to: https://www.smartregions.org/conference-details/goals-and-impact. Anyone interested in participating and/or
attending should contact hello@smartcincy.org by September 25. Make sure that you identify yourself as being
part of UC.