



AUG 22 2017

TO: Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) Chairs  
Biological Safety Officers  
Contacts for IBCs

FROM:

SUBJECT: Participation in National Biosafety Stewardship Month

Recent reports of lapses in biosafety practices involving Federal Laboratories have served to remind us of the importance of constant vigilance. Such events potentially put individuals at risk, undermine public confidence in the research enterprise, and must be addressed to prevent their recurrence. Efforts to strengthen laboratory biosafety practice must be supported and encouraged at the level of the Federal Government and individual laboratories.

As a measure toward preventing future lapses as well as promoting stewardship and biosafety awareness across Federal entities, Federal laboratories will receive attention to safe practice in biomedical research that regard the NIH and other HHS agencies will be instituting National Biosafety Stewardship Month. This effort will be implemented nationwide, same at the local level.

In this effort, as critically important role. I am hoping that you can support this effort at your institution by reinforcing and optimizing activities that are already part and parcel of how you normally do your jobs.

**What is National Biosafety Stewardship Month?**

During the month of September, to, do the following:

- Reexamine your institution's policies, procedures, and practices, whether they relate to the use of recombinant or synthetic nucleic acids, to ensure that those materials are properly stored and handled under appropriate containment conditions, and have documentation that cites the party responsible for appropriate stewardship of those materials, and



