



University of Michigan Policy on Participation in the OSEH Animal Handler Program

According to the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*, an effective occupational health and safety program “ensures that the risks associated with the experimental use of animals are identified and reduced to minimal and acceptable levels. Health and safety specialists with knowledge in relevant disciplines should be involved in risk assessment and in the development of procedures to manage such risks.” Potential hazards include experimental hazards such as biological agents, chemical agents, radiation, and physical hazards. “The extent and level of participation of personnel in the OHSP should be based on the hazards posed by the animals and materials used (the severity or seriousness of the hazard); the exposure intensity, duration, and frequency (prevalence of the hazard); to some extent on the susceptibility (e.g., immune status) of the personnel; and on the history of occupational illness and injury in the particular workplace.”

It is the goal of the Institutional Animal Care & Use Committee (IACUC) to comply with these requirements by facilitating interactions with various programs, committees and individuals to ensure the existence of a comprehensive Occupational Safety and Environmental Health (OSEH) Program. This will be accomplished by providing proper assessment and management of risks associated with the animals and materials used in research in association with the Animal Handler Occupational Health and Safety Program.

- *Mandatory involvement with the OSEH hazards program for anyone using hazards in animal research will consist of identification and evaluation of hazard use at the time of animal use application/amendment review with periodic inspections and reporting of potential hazardous conditions.*
- *Mandatory involvement with the OSEH medical surveillance program for anyone using laboratory animals will consist of an initial questionnaire to assess current risks and annual follow-ups to query for changes in health or risk status.*
- *Faculty and staff will be informed of their medical surveillance or hazards program requirements and failure to participate may be considered noncompliance with IACUC policy.*
- *Further mandatory involvement will be determined by personal risks, and species and materials exposure.*

The hazard and medical surveillance programs will be administered by the OSEH Department. Consequences for failure to participate have been determined by the IACUC to include such actions as removal from animal use protocols, restriction of access to animal use areas and in extreme cases, consequences may also include animal use protocol suspension.

For more information regarding the OSEH Animal Handler Program please visit www.oseh.umich.edu.