

NIH Office of Intramural Research (OIR)

Date: Thursday, May 8, 2025

From: Nina Schor, Deputy Director for Intramural Research

Subject: EO for Improving Safety and Security of Biological Research

Dear Principal Investigators, SDs, and CDs of the NIH Intramural Program,

We wanted to make you aware of the new Executive Order published on May 5, 2025, [Executive Order on Improving the Safety and Security of Biological Research](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-25-112.html) (see <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-25-112.html>).

In summary:

- Policies, actions, and definitions defined in this Executive Order supersede NIH's implementation of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) May 2024 U.S. Government Policy for Oversight of Dual Use Research of Concern and Pathogens with Enhanced Pandemic Potential (DURC/PEPP Policy).
- NIH intends to suspend ongoing funding in accordance with guidance developed under [Section 3\(b\)](#) and [Section 8](#) of the Executive Order.

How does this affect you and what do you need to do:

- Proactively review and identify potential dangerous gain-of-function research and identify safe actions to halt such research and to effectively comply with guidance once established. This should be done in conjunction with your biological safety officer and Responsible Official if it involves a select agent.
- The NIH Biological Safety Officers and the NIH Institutional Contact for Dual Use Research (ICDUR) within the Division of Occupational Health and Safety are reviewing the projects within our biological registration systems and will be reaching out to PIs and their Scientific Directors once we have confirmed that their research is covered by this EO.
- If you identify that your work potentially meets the requirement, and you wish to pause the research prior to the official determination, you may do so in conjunction with your biological safety officer and Responsible Official if it involves a select agent. If this includes animal experiments, you can allow that experiment to wind down as initially planned, and no new infections can occur. We will inform you if this guidance changes.

For any questions, please refer to the contact information below:

Site-Specific IBC	IBC Registration Portal URL	BSO Email
Bethesda (including Baltimore, Gaithersburg, Rockville, NIAID IRF-Frederick, and Phoenix)	https://ers.ors.nih.gov/	baumannrg@od.nih.gov
Rocky Mountain Laboratories	https://ers.ors.nih.gov/	rebecca.anderson@nih.gov
NIEHS-RTP	https://ehsartp.niehs.nih.gov/EHSA/	christopher.mcgee@nih.gov
NCI-Frederick	https://elements.nih.gov/Elements/	belltd@mail.nih.gov
NIH ICDUR (all sites)		jessica.mccormick-ell@nih.gov

Sincerely,

Nina F. Schor, MD, PhD
Deputy Director for Intramural Research
Office of the Director
National Institutes of Health
Building 1, Room 160
Office Phone: (301) 496-1921
Work Cell Phone: (301) 529-7584
Nina.Schor@NIH.gov