



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 refocus attention to safe practices 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 training materials to ensure whether they are up-to-date and effective.
- Conduct inventories of infectious agents, toxins, and other biological materials that they involve recombinant or synthetic nucleic acids, to ensure that all such materials are properly stored, handled, and disposed of in accordance with those materials are properly stored, handled, and disposed of in accordance with documentation that cites the party responsible for appropriate stewardship of such materials and

