



UTEP
RESEARCH & INNOVATION



Research Compliance & Regulatory Services Newsletter Ninth Issue



Dear Colleagues,

Hello and welcome to the ninth issue of our newsletter. We in Research Compliance and Regulatory Services are committed to upholding the highest standards of research compliance through a culture of service, accountability, and ethical responsibility. It is an exciting fall semester with a record-breaking number of UTEP students enrolled. I invite you to read through our issue and join us in expanding our knowledge of research compliance and security, as well as celebrating the accomplishments of fellow researchers.

In our ninth issue, we cover topics ranging from a new federal policy regulating life sciences research, to an upcoming exciting research security workshop, to new several new faces in our office and a recent publication by several UTEP faculty involving the new biomarkers from the oral glucose tolerance test that may predict metabolic risk.

Thank you for all that you do to advance research at UTEP. We welcome any recommendations on research highlights, tips, and learning opportunities to promote in future issues.

Go Miners!

Elaine Joseph, Ph.D. C.P.I.A.
Associate Vice President, Research Compliance & Regulatory Services

Top Story

New Federal Policy on Gain of Function, Potential Gain of Function, and International Research of Concern

On July 20, 2026, the U.S. Government issued the new **United States Government Policy for Stopping High-Risk Life Sciences Research**. The policy establishes a new framework for identifying and overseeing life sciences research that may pose significant risks to either public health, public safety, and/or national security. The policy focuses on two principal areas:

- **Dangerous Gain of Function (DGOF) Research:** Research that enhances a property or properties of a biological agent in ways that seeks, achieves, or has the risk of achieving one of seven distinct outcomes and could result in significant negative societal consequences.
- **International Research of Concern (IROC):** Research involving entities of concern, i.e., research conducted in a country of concern; or research conducted outside the U.S. by an institution of concern or an individual of concern.

The policy also establishes a review pathway for potential DGOF research. This refers to research that could potentially result in one or more specified harmful outcomes as written in the policy. Note: As issued, the new USG Policy applies to all biological agents used in life sciences research.

No immediate action is required at this time. Researchers should continue to comply with all current IBC approvals, award conditions, biosafety requirements, and existing policies. However, PIs should remain

observant to whether future or ongoing work could:

- Increase or potentially increase the harmful effects, transmissibility, stability, host range, or therapeutic resistance of a biological agent;
- Interfere or potentially interfere with immunity, vaccination, treatment, or detection;
- Increase or potentially increase the susceptibility of human, animal, or plant populations;
- Reconstitute an eradicated or extinct biological agent; or
- Involve potentially sensitive international research collaborations, foreign performance sites, institutions, or personnel.

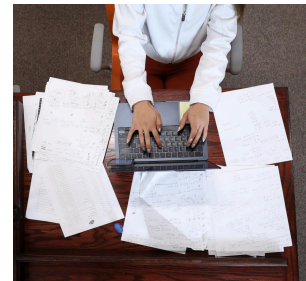
We are currently working with colleagues across campus and peer institutions to understand the new policy in preparation for our local implementation. In the coming months, additional guidance and training information will be issued to researchers. If you have questions, please feel free to contact Dr. Joseph directly.

[Email Dr. Joseph Here](#)

Did You Know?

There are new COI Requirements for DOE-funded Projects

As of August 17, 2026, the Department of Energy (DOE) will require individuals applying for or receiving DOE funds to identify, disclose, and manage conflicts of interest (COI), conflicts of commitment (COC), and organizational COI. These requirements are designed to safeguard the integrity, objectivity, and transparency of DOE-funded research and project activities. For UTEP, Research & Innovation, investigators, and other covered individuals, this means disclosing significant financial interests and outside professional activities in accordance with institutional policy before DOE funds are expended. These COI and COC reviews must be completed before the funds are expended, and records of disclosure and conflict determinations must be maintained, as well as management plans implemented when conflicts are identified.



By strengthening conflict disclosure, review, and management practices, these measures help ensure that DOE-funded projects are conducted ethically, objectively, and in the public interest, while maintaining public trust in the research enterprise. If you have any questions related to this new process, please contact the Research Protections office directly.

[Email Research Protections Here](#)

Compliance Updates

Research Security Workshop for Department Chairs and Administrative Leaders

Research security requirements continue to evolve at both the federal and state levels, creating new compliance expectations for universities and academic leaders. Policies such as NSPM-33, the CHIPS and Science Act, Texas Executive Order GA-48, and Texas House Bill 127 have increased the importance of understanding research security obligations and institutional responsibilities.



To help UTEP leaders navigate this changing landscape, we are partnering with Huron Consulting Group to offer a Research Security Workshop on October 20, 2026, from 9:00am to 12:00pm. Designed

for department chairs and administrative leaders, the workshop will provide an overview of current research security requirements, regulatory and enforcement trends, and the critical roles academic leaders play in supporting compliance and safeguarding the university's research enterprise. Participants will gain practical insight into emerging expectations and best practices for managing research security risks within their departments.

It will be held on October 20, 2026, at 9:00am in IDR 2.204. Please RSVP with Research Protections.

[Email Research Protections Here](#)

The New Faces of Research Compliance and PAVE

Research Compliance and PAVE are growing with the addition of three new staff members. Aylin Garcia joins the team from the Institutional Review Board office of El Paso Community College as our new IRB Specialist. She is a UTEP graduate, having obtained her Master of Arts in education here. Jeff Dominguez is joining UTEP from New Mexico State University (NMSU) as our new IACUC/IBC Analyst. Mr. Dominguez holds a Master of Science from NMSU where he performed research with sheep. They replace Brittanie Eastwood and Dennis Gruszka who left UTEP to follow other pursuits. Finally, we also welcome Karla Galvan, a current member of the UTEP research community, as our newest PAVE Senior Coordinator. Ms. Galvan brings her institutional knowledge and dedication to supporting researchers to the PAVE office. She received her Bachelor of Science and Master of Science from UTEP and most recently worked here as a laboratory manager.

We are excited to welcome Aylin, Jeff, and Karla to the Research Compliance and Regulatory Services team and look forward to the contributions they will make in supporting UTEP's research community.

LARC News

Importance of PPE and Room Order in Rodent Health Surveillance

Rodent health surveillance programs are important parts of laboratory animal care programs. They are designed to identify, control, and ultimately eliminate disease variables that may affect research. Rodent health surveillance tests for the presence of pathogens using various diagnostic methods. The best ways to prevent pathogens in the laboratory animal colony are to follow the following practices:

- Always wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), minimally gloves and disposable lab coats, whenever you are in an animal room. Additionally change PPE between rooms.
- Spray your gloves with disinfectant between cages you handle to reduce the risk of transmitting pathogens.
- Immune-compromised rooms must be entered first on any given day, then ABSL-1 rooms, then ABSL-2 rooms. If you enter an ABSL-2 room, you cannot enter an immune-compromised room later in the day without showering and changing clothes.



Proper PPE and room order entry procedures are critical to preventing cross-contamination, preventing animal health issues, and ensuring accurate research results. Together we can improve rodent health!

[Email LARC Here](#)

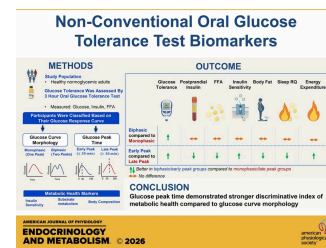
In the News

Non-Conventional Oral Glucose Tolerance Test Biomarkers for Metabolic Health

Diabetes affects one in ten Americans, with more than 90% of cases classified as type 2 diabetes. The oral glucose tolerance test (OGTT) has gained popularity as a standard measure for diagnosing both diabetes and pre-diabetes; however, reproducibility of some aspects of the OGTT is poor for those at risk for type 2 diabetes. Dr. Sudip Bajpeyi, along with graduate student Zahra Fatahimeiabadi and post-doctoral fellow Dr. Jehu Narh Apaflo, published a study in the September 2026 issue of the American Journal of Physiology, Endocrinology and Metabolism examining alternative OGTT-derived indices, including the shape of the glucose curve and glucose peak time, as biomarkers of metabolic health. They examined over 85 normoglycemic adults and classified them as either monophasic or biphasic glucose curves and early or late glucose peak times. Analysis demonstrated that biphasic glucose curves and early glucose peak times indicated better glucose tolerance and insulin sensitivity. This study plays an important role in identifying new alternative indices of metabolic health and identifies a new potential biomarker of the OGTT that could identify potential diabetes risks.

To read the complete article, click below.

[Read the Article Here](#)



Research & Innovation
The University of Texas at El Paso
500 W. University Ave.
El Paso, TX 79968

research.utep.edu

The University of Texas El Paso | 500 W. University Ave. | El Paso, TX 79968 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!