



UTEP  
RESEARCH & INNOVATION



## Research Compliance & Regulatory Assurances Newsletter Seventh Edition

Dear Colleagues,

Hello and welcome to the seventh edition of our quarterly newsletter. I can't believe it is almost May and graduation and summer seem right around the corner! I invite you to read through it and join us in expanding our knowledge of research compliance and security, as well as celebrating the accomplishments of fellow researchers.

In our seventh issue, we cover topics ranging from reducing administrative burden for research faculty, to how to protect your research and research career, and a recent publication by several UTEP faculty involving the integration of clinical and genomic data that may identify progression risks in prostate cancer.

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 Assurances



---

### Top Story

#### Reducing Administrative Burden on Faculty who Perform Human Subjects Research

At the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) the vast majority of human subjects research consists of exempt studies (75%) or expedited studies originally submitted after January 1, 2019 (16%). We are pleased to announce that due to regulatory changes, we have begun eliminating expiration dates for exempt studies and expedited studies originally submitted after January 1, 2019. This is a tremendous reduction in administrative burden for most human subjects research faculty. For all those faculty investigators with exempt or expedited studies, you will receive a new approval letter stating this change after your next amendment or continuing review is approved. As always, research must continue to be

and any and all proposed changes to the study must be submitted to the IRB for review and approval prior to implementation.

Research Compliance and Regulatory Assurances is always looking for ways to reduce faculty burden while maintaining regulatory compliance. If you have any questions about this change, please feel free to contact Dr. Elaine Joseph directly at [enjoseph@utep.edu](mailto:enjoseph@utep.edu) or 915-747-0994 or the IRB Office at [IRB@utep.edu](mailto:IRB@utep.edu).

[Email IRB Here](#)

## Did You Know?

**It is important to protect your research and your career and we can help.**

Researchers worldwide undertake essential work on a daily basis, contributing to advancements that hold significant promise for improving global conditions. However, nefarious actors are also engaged in attempts to steal the life's work of researchers to use it for the benefit of foreign adversary nations and to the detriment of ours. Not only are these efforts a risk to your research, they are also a risk to your career and future research prospects.

Before collaborating with someone on a project or publication, researchers must ask themselves: How well do I know this person? Do I know what organizations they represent? If my name appears on a published paper with this individual, along with their affiliations, would I be putting my future research funding at risk with certain agencies? Knowing the answers to these questions can assist you as a researcher in deciding whether to collaborate with someone.

If you would like to learn more about what to look for and what to consider in making these decisions, please contact Research Protections directly at [foreigninf@utep.edu](mailto:foreigninf@utep.edu) or [ExportControl@utep.edu](mailto:ExportControl@utep.edu).

[Email UFI Here](#)

[Email Export Control Here](#)

## All Faculty, Including Emeritus Faculty, Staff, and Students on Active Grants Have Training Obligations

Regulations require that all personnel listed on federal grant proposals complete Research Security training prior to proposal submission. In addition, all personnel on any active grant must maintain up-to-date Responsible Conduct of Research training. These requirements include students and emeritus faculty, when they are listed on the grant or grant proposal. UTEP uses the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) Program, a web-based training platform to provide all research-related compliance training, to provide training to all UTEP personnel.

If you need to take Research Security training, please click [here](#) to be automatically enrolled in the course. If you are an administrator and are required to take Responsible Conduct of Research training, please click [here](#) to be enrolled. If you are a faculty member, emeritus faculty member, or student conducting research, please click [here](#) to be enrolled.

If you have any questions about either Responsible Conduct of Research or Research Security training, please contact Research Protections directly at [utepresearchtraining@utep.edu](mailto:utepresearchtraining@utep.edu).

[Email Research Training Here](#)

---

## Compliance Updates

### Procurement of Custom Antibodies and New Procedures to Protect UTEP

Monoclonal or polyclonal antibodies are critical research reagents, which typically require immunization of a living animal host to be created. Faculty researchers often use a commercial vendor to produce antibodies or purchase these directly from such a vendor. Antibodies, monoclonal or polyclonal, are considered customized if they are produced using an antigen(s) provided by the investigator or at the request of the investigator (e.g., not purchased as a ready-made catalog item off-the-shelf). Since UTEP accepts federal funding for animal research, we are required to ensure that all antibodies procured by researchers are obtained from vendors or organizations that hold an Animal Welfare Assurance from the NIH Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare



The Research Compliance and Regulatory Assurances' Office will begin working with Purchasing to screen purchases involving custom antibodies to ensure that vendors meet federal requirements. To assist faculty, we have developed a list of several companies that have an Animal Welfare Assurance and may be used to purchase custom antibodies. For more information, please feel free to contact Dr Joseph directly at [enjoseph@utep.edu](mailto:enjoseph@utep.edu).

---

## LARC News

### Improving Biocontainment Measures in LARC

Biocontainment measurements are the practices, measures, and facilities used to prevent infectious agents from entering or leaving a laboratory animal facility. These are critical in protecting animals and ensuring the integrity of scientific studies. The Laboratory Animal Resources Center (LARC) at UTEP has taken several steps to improve its biocontainment recently, including changes in personal protective equipment, disinfection practices and materials, and increased training. All the LARC facilities are now equipped with disposable laboratory coats, which increase infection control and reduce cross contamination that can occur with reusable lab coats. In addition, disinfectants have been switched out to a disinfectant that is more effective and requires significantly less contact time. Finally, LARC staff and laboratory staff are continuously undergoing training to improve hygiene and biocontainment practices.



The LARC team is continually working on improvements to ensure the highest level of animal care and welfare. For more information on the improvements to biocontainment practices, please contact Dr. Elaine Joseph at [enjoseph@utep.edu](mailto:enjoseph@utep.edu) or LARC directly at [LARC@utep.edu](mailto:LARC@utep.edu).

[Email LARC Here](#)

---

## In the News

[Integration of Clinical and Genomic Data to Identify Key Variables Associated with Progression of Prostate Cancer](#)

Prostate cancer is the most widespread cancer among men worldwide, with one in seven men predicted to be diagnosed with prostate cancer in his lifetime. A study published in the February 2026 issue of the *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health* by Drs. Ming-Ying Leung, Abhijit Mandal, and Jonathon Mohl from the Department of Mathematical Sciences at UTEP, and their colleagues used survival modeling techniques to help identify and predict which patients may be at higher risk of cancer progression. Data from nearly 500 patients, obtained from the TCGA Prostate Adenocarcinoma Pan-Cancer Atlas, was analyzed using three modeling approaches. Three clinical variables and one gene were identified by all three models as traits associated with prostate cancer progression. This work, funded by the National Institutes on Minority Health and Health Disparities, suggests that both genetics and clinical variables should be integrated into future modeling techniques in order to gain an understanding of the potential progression risks for patients with prostate cancer.,

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](http://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!