Policy on Occupational Exposure to Human Bloodborne Pathogens

(Approved by the President on August 29, 2005; Revised April 21, 2009)

I. Purpose

It is recognized that certain job activities at the University of Maryland Biotechnology Institute (UMBI) may result in occupational exposure to human blood and other potentially infectious materials. It is also recognized that some of this human blood and other potentially infectious materials may contain bloodborne pathogens such as the hepatitis B virus (HBV), hepatitis C virus (HCV) and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). This is a statement of official University policy to describe the mechanism for compliance with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulation, "Occupational Exposure to Bloodborne Pathogens; Final Rule" (29 CFR Part 1910.1030)" to ensure worker safety and environmental protection.

II. Background

This policy has been developed to ensure compliance with Board of Regents (BOR) Policy VI-11.00, University System of Maryland Policy on AIDS (approved by the BOR on June 21, 1990). The University is dedicated to providing a safe workplace for employees, and to complying with federal and state occupational health and safety standards. Laboratory administrators, managers, supervisors, faculty and staff each share responsibility for minimizing their occupational exposure to human blood and other potentially infectious materials.

III. Definitions

A. Human blood is defined as human blood, human blood components, and products made from human blood

B. Other Potentially Infectious Materials means: (1) The following human body fluids: semen, vaginal secretions, cerebrospinal fluid, synovial fluid, pleural fluid, pericardial fluid, peritoneal fluid, amniotic fluid, saliva in dental procedures, any body fluid that is visibly contaminated with blood, and all body fluids in situations where it is difficult or impossible to differentiate between body fluids; (2) Any unfixed tissue or organ (other than intact skin) from a human (living or dead); and (3) HIV-containing cell or tissue cultures, organ cultures, and HIV- or HBV-containing culture medium or other solutions; and blood, organs, or other tissues from experimental animals infected with HIV or HBV. The OSHA definition of Bloodborne Pathogens means pathogenic microorganisms that are present in human blood and can cause disease in humans. These

pathogens include, but are not limited to, hepatitis B virus (HBV) and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

C. UMBI personnel are defined as all employees of UMBI, including full-time, part-time, temporary, contingent, and visiting personnel with appointments in any employment category, and all volunteers participating in UMBI activities.

IV. Policy

A. A Human Bloodborne Pathogens Exposure Control Plan (ECP) shall be developed and administered by UMBI's Office of Research, Innovation and Commercialization.

B. The UMBI ECP shall be reviewed and evaluated for its effectiveness at least annually by UMBI's Office of Research, Innovation and Commercialization.

V. Responsibilities

A. In accordance with the ECP, UMBI shall:

1. Communicate the ECP to all UMBI personnel;

2. Provide appropriate bloodborne pathogen training to its employees.

3. Maintain documentation of training.

4. Report incidents of suspected exposure to human blood or other potentially infectious material to the UMBI Workers' Compensation Manager.

5. Monitor compliance with the UMBI ECP.

6. Verify that all employees with potential occupational exposure are offered the hepatitis B vaccination and post-exposure evaluation and follow-up to all employees who have had a suspected exposure incident.

B. UMBI personnel with reasonably anticipated occupational exposure to human blood or other potentially infectious materials shall:

1. Adhere to the requirements of the ECP; and

2. Complete all safety training requirements prior to working with potentially infectious materials and comply with ECP documentation procedures; and

3. Report all suspected exposure incidents.