Charge and Authority of the IBC
The Institutional Official (IO) has charged the committee with review, approval and oversight of biohazardous materials, agents, toxins, and recombinant or synthetic nucleic acid molecules in research and teaching activities. Responsibilities of the IBC include assessment of materials, procedures, practices, facilities, and training of research personnel to assure compliance with NIH/OBA, CDC, SDSU Biosafety Program and other pertinent guidelines, regulations, and campus policies. To successfully carry out these responsibilities, the IBC is appointed to achieve sufficient knowledge and expertise in biomedical research and biosafety. The IBC has the authority to approve, require modifications to secure approval, disapprove, suspend or terminate research activities as required to assure adherence to the appropriate regulations and guidelines.

The IBC has been charged in the planning and implementation of the campus Biosafety Program with a purpose to ensure the health and safety of all personnel working with biohazardous materials, agents, toxins, and recombinant or synthetic nucleic acid molecules. The IBC makes certain that research conducted at SDSU is in compliance with the NIH Guidelines, BMBL, USDA, DOT/IATA, Department of Commerce and CalOSHA regulations, and assists in achieving compliance through campus policies and procedures, and review of individual research proposals using biohazardous materials, agents, toxins, and recombinant or synthetic nucleic acid molecules. Noncompliance to the safe conduct of research may result in unnecessary risks to human health. The IBC is therefore responsible for establishing and implementing policies that provide for the safe conduct of research involving biohazardous materials, agents, toxins, and recombinant or synthetic nucleic acid molecules to ensure adherence with guidelines, regulations, and campus policies and procedures.

Since the University receives NIH funding for research involving recombinant or synthetic nucleic acid molecules, all activities involving recombinant or synthetic nucleic acid molecules must follow the NIH Guidelines. Failure to adhere to these guidelines can result in suspension or termination of NIH funding, or to a requirement for prior NIH approval of any or all recombinant or synthetic nucleic acid molecules projects at the institution. IBC responsibilities with regards to activities involving recombinant or synthetic nucleic acid molecules are specified in the NIH Guidelines. Also, as delineated in the Institutional Official’s charge to the IBC, the committee is given authority to oversee all research involving biohazardous materials, agents, toxins, and recombinant or synthetic nucleic acid molecules including suspension or termination of research that does not comply with IBC Policies regardless of funding.

Biohazardous materials shall include all of the following:

- Infectious organisms (including viruses and prions) that cause disease in humans or significant agricultural or environmental impact;
- Human, animal and plant pathogens (bacterial, fungal, parasitic, rickettsial, viral, prions);
- Research collecting or analyzing human or non-human primate cell lines (fixed, established, or primary), tissues, blood, blood products, fluids or other human source material, i.e. sputum, feces, saliva urine. Use of human source material for clinical diagnostic and treatment purposes is excluded;
- Administration of toxic materials including biological toxins (saxitoxin, aflatoxin, venom, etc.), antineoplastic or cytotoxic drugs, select carcinogens (known or possible human carcinogens), or acutely hazardous substances (LD₅₀ < 50mg/kg oral dose in rats, LD₅₀ < 200mg/kg skin contact in rabbits, LC₅₀ < 2000ppm/1hr in rats), or other toxic materials that might elicit serious chronic or acute effects to humans, animals, or plants administered in vitro or in vivo;
- Possession, use and/or transfer of regulated Select Agents and toxins;
- Biohazardous animals (including their tissues, fluids, cells, or cell cultures) are those that 1) have been exposed to infectious organisms; 2) are known to be reservoirs of zoonotic diseases; or 3) animals that contain xenotransplants with materials of human origin or with materials from biohazardous animals
- Exotic or non-indigenous animals, plants;
- Administration of infectious agents, human or non-human primate tissues, toxic materials, or select agents into animals, animal tissue and/or plants and plant tissues;
- Large scale cultures of over 4 liters in one vessel
- Environmental samples collected from areas that may contain etiological agents