March 24, 2014

Dear Research Community,

As a researcher, you know that research excellence and safety are inextricably intertwined. Safety is a core value of our institution and an integral part of the responsible conduct of research. You play a critical role in ensuring safety in your research every day.

The University expects all members of our research community to integrate safety into their research activities, to strive for excellence, and to go beyond minimum compliance. It is our expectation that every researcher will:

1. **Demonstrate a Commitment to Safety** - Lead by example, adhere to the rules, and be willing to speak up if you see unsafe practices. Faculty and other supervisors are expected to put safety on the agenda and build it into the way their group works and thinks.

2. **Assess and Plan for Hazards and Risks** - Take the time to systematically assess risks and plan for the hazards identified. Incorporate safety into laboratory standard operating procedures.

3. **Implement Controls** - Take action to control your risks. Make sure you have the right protective equipment and that engineering controls are working correctly. Principal investigators must enforce the established rules in their lab.

4. **Complete Safety Training** - Ensure that new researchers have the knowledge and skill to safely perform their research activities. It is the responsibility of the principal investigator to ensure that researchers receive research specific safety training.

5. **Strive for Continuous Improvement** - Research is not a static endeavor. Managing safety requires ongoing reassessment, feedback, and reinforcement. Encourage reporting and resolve safety concerns. Involve all lab members when identifying and reviewing lessons learned after incidents and near-misses.

The Department of Environmental Safety (des.umd.edu) has a variety of services, tools and guidance to assist with meeting these expectations. We encourage you to take advantage of their assistance and to not hesitate to contact them if you have any related concerns.

Sincerely,

Mary Ann Rankin  
Senior Vice President and Provost

Patrick O'Shea  
Vice President and Chief Research Officer

Carlo Colella  
Vice President for Administration and Finance