

## IN THIS ISSUE

---

1. Updated Audience for Ethics and Compliance Briefing for Researchers (ECBR)
2. Export Control Memo
3. Prohibition on Participation in Malign Foreign Talent Recruitment Programs (MFTRPs)
4. UC Reliance Registry Closing
5. IACUC Policy Updates
6. RCI Staff Update



### **Updated Audience for Ethics and Compliance Briefing for Researchers (ECBR)**

The systemwide mandated ECBR course is intended for all University extramurally funded researchers, including faculty and staff researchers, as well as postdoctoral scholars. The course was developed to raise awareness of the UC Statement of Ethical Values and Standards of Ethical Conduct and to convey important information about conflict of interest (COI) regulations when accepting extramural research funds. It also addresses federal funding agency research security concerns.

The audience for the ECBR course has been updated by UCOP as a new system is being utilized to identify researchers who must complete this course. Researchers who must complete this course will receive notifications from the UC Learning Center (UCLC) in the next few weeks. The ECBR course must be completed every 2 years.

### **Export Control Memo**

Vice Chancellor, Dr. Gillian Wilson, and Assistant Vice Chancellor, Leslie Teixeira Porto share important reminders and updates regarding export controls and foreign engagements in the recent [Export Control Memo](#).



## **Prohibition on Participation in Malign Foreign Talent Recruitment Programs (MFTRPs)**

The National Science Foundation's (NSF) revised [Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide \(PAPPG\)](#), expected to go into effect in May 2024, prohibits participation of senior personnel in MFTRPs. All senior personnel will be required to certify prior to proposal submission and annually that they are not party to an MFTRP. In addition, the institution will need to certify that all senior personnel associated with the proposal have been made aware of and have complied with their responsibility to certify that they are not a party to a malign foreign talent recruitment program.

UC Merced researchers will make the initial certification in the Biographical Sketch and Current and Pending (Other) Support documents during the proposal process. The process for annual recertification will be shared once the process is fully developed.

Beginning August 9, 2024, the Department of Defense (DoD) is prohibited from providing funding to or making an award of a fundamental research project proposal in which a covered individual is participating in a malign foreign talent recruitment program or to a proposing institution that does not have a policy addressing malign foreign talent programs. To address the policy needs across the UC system, the UCOP Grants and Contracts Manual will be revised to include language prohibiting participation in malign foreign talent recruitment programs.

We encourage researchers to review this [short video series](#) for more information on malign foreign talent recruitment programs and research security.

Find information on how to identify a non-US talent recruitment program [here](#).

### **UC Reliance Registry Closing**

The IRB Reliance Registry will be retired on June 30, 2024. Beginning March 19, 2024, no new reliances may be entered into the system. New reliances created on or after March 19, 2024 will not be processed. Please ensure any reliances currently in process are fully executed no later than May 31, 2024.

Contact the IRB office at [irboffice@ucmerced.edu](mailto:irboffice@ucmerced.edu) if you have any questions.

## IACUC Policy Updates

UC Merced's Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) has been working diligently to strengthen and formalize the animal care program. Our efforts have produced several new policies that we want to ensure you are aware of, as it may impact your future animal use protocols. The new policies (and all other policies and guidance documents) can be found on the [IACUC website](#).

Additionally, we are working on the implementation of the Post Approval Monitoring (PAM) Program, which includes the recently approved PAM policy (*to be posted on our website later this month*). This program is designed to be a valuable educational and training tool for animal researchers and simultaneously ensure we are complying with all relevant regulations and policies.

Lastly, we are preparing for the semi-annual facility inspections that will take place in May 2024. We will be reaching out within the next month to provide more information on dates/times as well as provide resources for a successful inspection.

## RCI Staff Update



Danielle Benziger has transitioned from the Assistant Director of Research Compliance and Integrity to the Executive Director of Research Compliance and Integrity and Department of Animal Research Services.



Chou Xiong is now the Assistant Director of Research Compliance and Integrity.

Contact the RCI Office

**Mailing Address:**

Office of Research Compliance and  
Integrity University of California,  
Merced  
5200 N. Lake  
Road Merced,  
CA 95340

**Campus Internal Mailing Address:**

Office of Research Compliance and  
Integrity Downtown Campus Center  
Building

**Telephone:**

209-228-4805

General Email: [rci@ucmerced.edu](mailto:rci@ucmerced.edu)

IRB: [irboffice@ucmerced.edu](mailto:irboffice@ucmerced.edu)

IACUC: [iacuoffice@ucmerced.edu](mailto:iacuoffice@ucmerced.edu)

Export Controls: [exportcontrols@ucmerced.edu](mailto:exportcontrols@ucmerced.edu)

COI: [COI@ucmerced.edu](mailto:COI@ucmerced.edu)

Foreign Engagements: [foreignengagement@ucmerced.edu](mailto:foreignengagement@ucmerced.edu)