U-M Laboratory and Research Safety Committee
Charge

The University of Michigan (U-M) Laboratory and Research Safety Committee (LRSC) is established jointly by the Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer for Business & Finance (EVP-CFO) and the Vice President for Research in order to strengthen the culture of safety at U-M through enhanced oversight and accountability in the academic and research settings. The LRSC has oversight responsibility for academic and research activities that involve potentially hazardous materials or equipment, occurring in laboratories, shops, or studios affiliated with the Ann Arbor campus.

The U-M requires that faculty, staff, students, research fellows, and visitors comply with all applicable Federal and State regulations and U-M policies pertaining to research and academic activities. The LRSC will serve as a central point for review of the implementation of Federal and State regulations and U-M policies pertaining to safety in research and academic activities in laboratories, shops, or studios. The LRSC will also review incidents and concerns regarding safe practices in laboratories, shops, or studios and will make recommendations for improvements and remediation where necessary.

The LRSC will work closely with the U-M Department of Environment, Health & Safety (EHS) to promote research and academic safety campus-wide by serving as the monitoring body for the Safety Committees at the college-, school-, and major research unit-level. This structure will be utilized both to inform department-level personnel of changes to research safety policies and practices, and to address reports of safety issues from the laboratories.

LRSC activities include, but are not limited to:
- Reviewing applicable Federal and State regulations for their impact on U-M policies and procedures, and making recommendations for improvements as needed
- Reviewing reports received from unit-level Safety Committees
- Serving an advisory role to unit-level Safety Committees and the U-M research community
- Reviewing reports generated by EHS and received from other sources regarding laboratory and research safety issues
- Working with EHS to assure that any corrective and preventive actions for laboratories with serious or continuing lab safety issues are addressed as needed
- Coordinating with other U-M research oversight committees to resolve safety concerns (e.g., Institutional Biosafety Committee, Radiation Policy Committee)
- Providing guidance on the development of information management systems
- Proposing recommendations and requirements for U-M laboratory and research safety training

The LRSC initially will meet monthly and then at least quarterly.

The LRSC will provide regular updates on the progress made in improving the culture of laboratory and research safety and on issues of concern to the U-M Research Compliance Advisory Committee, the Vice President for Research, the EVP-CFO, the Provost, and the Executive Vice President for Medical Affairs.

Committee members will serve three-year terms that may be renewed based on continuation of the individual’s University role. (Initial appointment lengths may be shorter to stagger the rotation.) Regular voting committee members and their alternates will be selected from Ann Arbor campus schools, colleges, and units/institutes with academic or research activity that falls under the scope of the LRSC. It is not required that committee members have a role on a
school/college/unit safety committee. At-large members may also be appointed. The committee will have student and post-doctoral scholar representation and ex officio members from key U-M oversight areas.