



DIVISION OF RESEARCH

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OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH

February 2, 2021

Dear Research Community:

In January, together with the Senior Vice President and Provost and the Vice President for Administration and Finance, we approved the [University of Maryland Research Safety Standard](#). This *Research Safety Standard* documents our university's commitment to safety, and it defines the fundamental safety requirements for all research areas where hazardous materials or hazardous operations are present. To support faculty, staff and students in achieving compliance, the *Research Safety Standard* is supplemented with associated *Procedures* to provide campus best practice requirements and expectations in seven categories.

I firmly believe safety is paramount and is integral to achieving research excellence. As we work together to achieve and maintain excellence in our research, I encourage the continual integration of safety into our routine actions so that it becomes instinctive in our culture. To that effort, it is with much appreciation and gratitude that I highlight the significant contribution and leadership of the Laboratory Operations and Safety Committee (LOSC) and its Chair, Associate Professor Jason Kahn, in creating this comprehensive guiding document. During a time when the community was facing many challenges, the LOSC members provided their expertise and their time, ensuring the completion of this *Research Safety Standard*. For their steadfast dedication to safety in research, I am very thankful.

I thank you in advance for broadly distributing the *Research Safety Standard* within your respective areas. This *Research Safety Standard* is part of a broader campus-wide initiative, [Fearless Vision: Achieving Excellence in Research Safety](#). This initiative focuses on streamlining research safety compliance and transforming the culture of safety at the University of Maryland. The Department of Environmental Safety, Sustainability and Risk at essr.umd.edu offers additional communications and guidance to the research community related to this *Research Safety Standard* and other *Fearless Vision* program elements. The Office of Research Safety will be holding forums with stakeholders in the near future.

Questions or requests for additional information or support can be communicated to labsafety@umd.edu.

Sincerely,

Laurie E. Locascio, Ph.D.
Vice President for Research