

INTRODUCTION

This Laboratory Safety Manual details the safety policies, procedures, and standards at the University of Miami. Developed by the Office of Environmental Health and Safety (**EHS**), this Manual has been reviewed by the University's General Counsel and approved by the Office of the Provost. This document comprises a set of laboratory health and safety guidelines designed to protect all University of Miami employees who work in a laboratory environment. The scope of relevant federal, state and local regulations is defined as each subject is addressed throughout the document. These standards may change from time to time and where a provision in this Manual is in conflict with a standard or could be interpreted to conflict with an applicable standard, the Manual should be interpreted so as to comply with all applicable laws and regulations.

As a cornerstone of the University's Laboratory Safety Program, the main purpose of this Manual is to provide a framework for recognizing, evaluating, and controlling hazards associated with laboratory operations. Implementation of the guidelines in this Manual depends on the cooperation of the department chairpersons, faculty, laboratory staff, students, **EHS** staff, and members of safety committees. Although the Principal Investigators bear the ultimate responsibility for safe conditions and procedures in their laboratories, each member of a laboratory group is responsible for complying with the standards put forth in this Manual with the common goal of promoting a healthy and safe working environment for all employees and students.

There may be some situations in which proper facilities and equipment are not available for conducting projects. When this is the case, faculty members should consult **EHS** for assistance in evaluating hazards and finding ways to conduct activities in a safe and healthy manner.

Since laboratory activities are so diverse, this Manual should not be considered a comprehensive review of all potential hazards. Individuals with additional questions should contact **EHS** directly.