Announcement:
National Biosafety Stewardship Season is Back!

In 2014, the NIH announced a new initiative to promote stewardship of the life sciences and biosafety awareness. Columbia University’s Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S) reminded all researchers who work with infectious agents to:

- REVIEW: Re-examine your lab protocols, policies and procedures; ensure they accurately reflect the best safety practices when performing work.
- TRAIN: Determine that all of your staff are trained in safety practices.
- INVENTORY: Perform a thorough review of your lab’s cold storage; inventory your stock; dispose of unknown and unneeded infectious material.

For the fall 2015 season, the focus is to sustain the above practices and enhance a culture of safety and responsibility in life science research laboratories. In addition to REVIEW, TRAIN, AND INVENTORY, the NIH encourages researchers to ENGAGE...

ENGAGE with their safety partners (such as EH&S) as well as each other to communicate the importance of biosafety and take an active role with respect to biosafety in their laboratories. Everyone has a safety story to tell, whether it is a success or a lesson learned. We encourage you to share a safety story with your fellow researchers. Additionally, please report any incident to EH&S; our role is to help the research community learn from these events, and to identify optimal responses and strategies to minimize future risks. For more information regarding current and emerging issues see our Safety Matters newsletters, as well as our incident report series, the Santayana Report. Both can be found at http://www.ehs.columbia.edu/Publication.html.