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STELLENBOSCH  
UNIVERSITY

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1918 · 2018

*forward together · saam vorentoe · masiye phambili*

# Research Ethics Committee: Biosafety and Environmental Ethics A Stellenbosch University Case Study

Mr Winston A Beukes – Coordinator: Research Ethics (Animal Use and Biosafety)

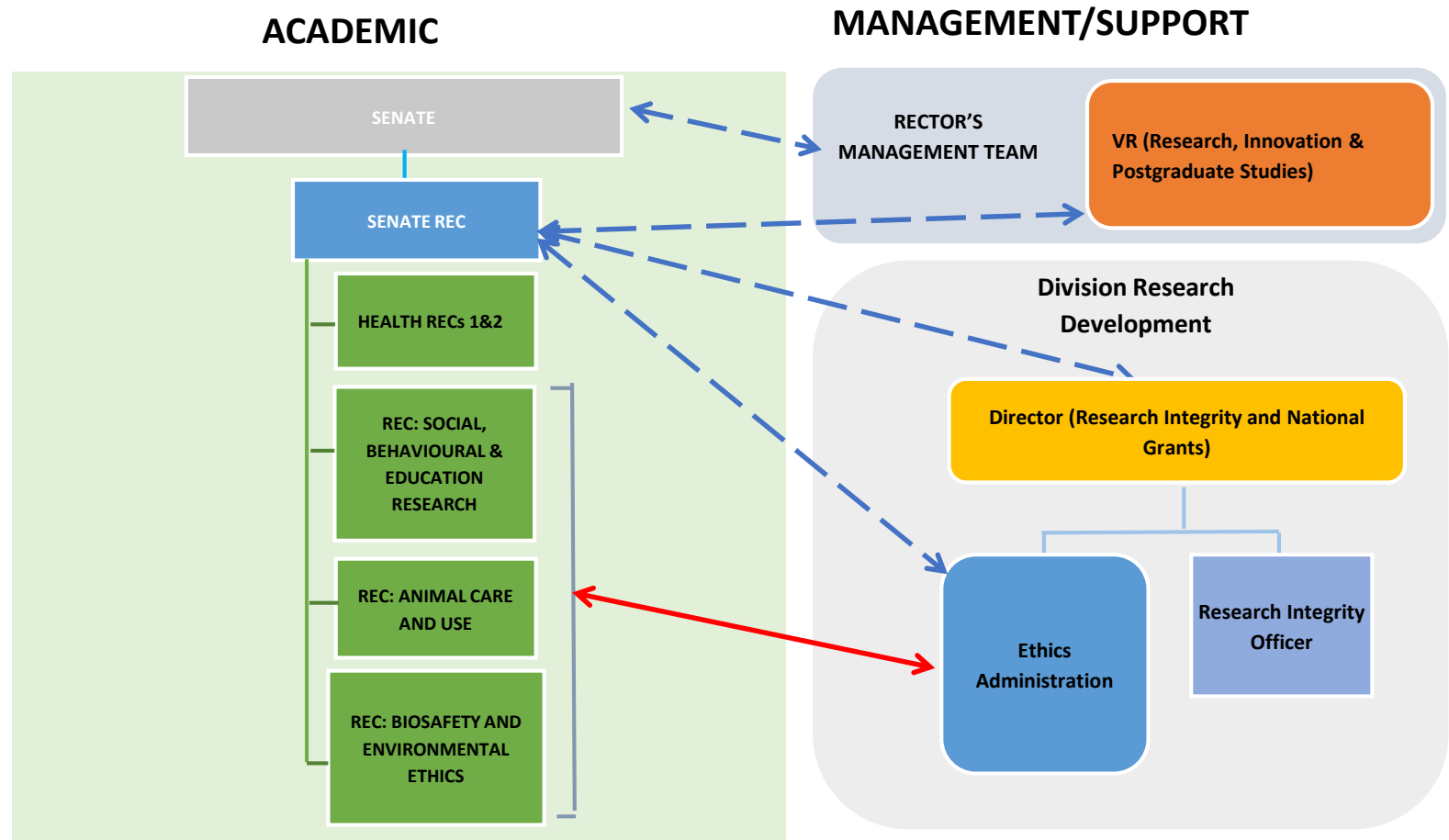
**Sustainable Biotech Innovation Symposium 2-3 March 2020**

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1. Biosafety @ SU (Institutional Policy Documents)
2. Terms of reference – Authorisation and Scope
3. Institutional Culture – Ethical Research Conduct (Beyond Compliance)
4. Biosafety Committee Processes
5. Champion and Expertise
6. Training and Development
7. Compliance Officer (Legal)
8. Collaboration with other Ethics Committees (institutional and at other institutions)

# I. Biosafety @ Stellenbosch University

## STRUCTURES SUPPORTING THE PROMOTION OF RESPONSIBLE RESEARCH AT STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY



## 2. Terms of reference – Authorisation and Scope

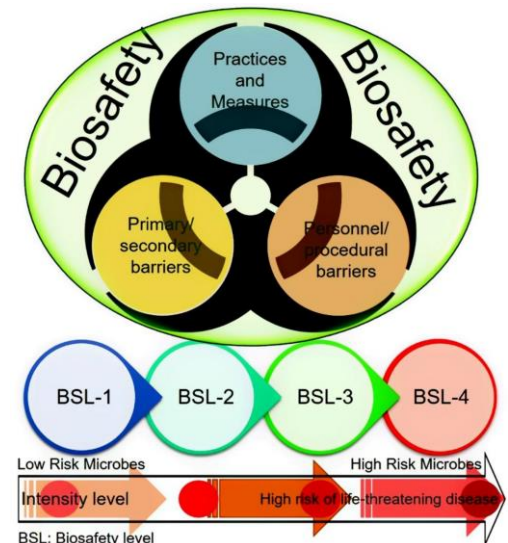
### Biosafety Committee

The University has established a Biosafety Committee for ensuring all research and teaching projects involving the use of biohazardous materials are conducted safely and in compliance with established biosafety guidelines.

The committee is mandated to:

1. Offer advice on the safe use of biohazardous materials;
2. Monitor adherence to National Legislation (Various Acts and Guidelines) and the NIH Guidelines for Research Involving Recombinant or Synthetic Nucleic Acid Molecules.

Members shall be appointed such that the committee has expertise in biohazardous materials, techniques and procedures utilizing these materials, and infection control.



### 3. Institutional Culture – Ethical Research Conduct (Beyond Compliance)

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**“I want you to find a bold and innovative way to do everything exactly the same way it’s been done for 25 years.”**

# 4. Biosafety Committee Processes

- **Facility Registrations** – Know what our labs contain
- **Project Applications** – Register your specific project



# 5. Champions and Experts



**Dedicated people with a passion  
for Biosafety and a willingness to  
serve.**

# 6. Training and Development

- In house training via committee member expertise
- Use meeting session as training especially if interesting cases pop up 😊



## **Network: Don't be shy**

European Biosafety Association Speaker in RSA – 2018

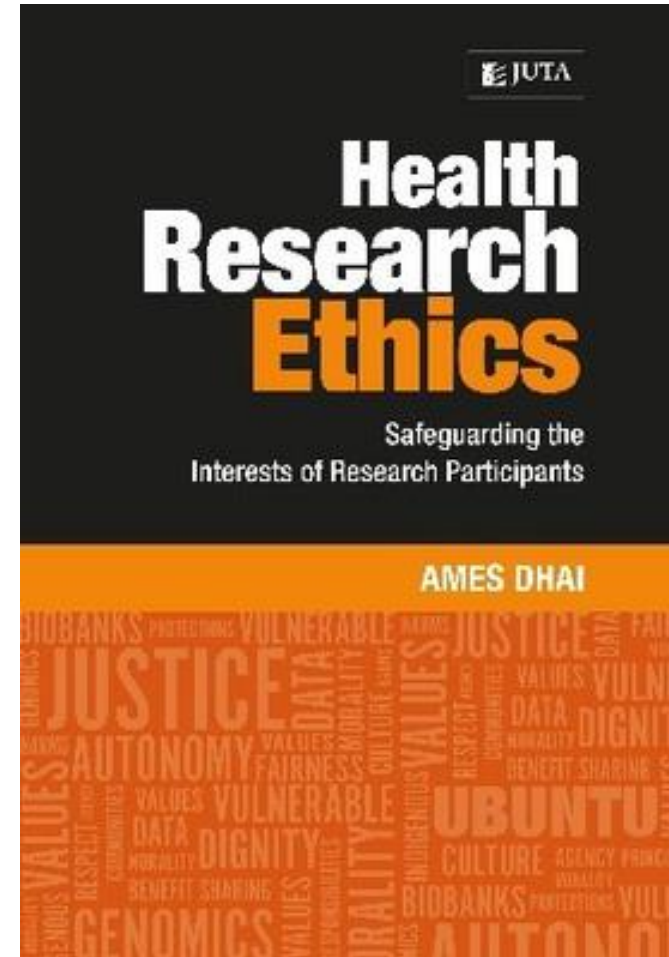
Support from Institution to get speakers



# 7. Compliance Officer (Legal)

- Constitution of the Republic of South Africa No. 108 of 1996 (section 24)
- Genetically Modified Organisms Act 1997 (Act No. 15, 1997)
- Genetically Modified Organisms Amendment (Act No. 23 of 2006)
- The National Environmental Management Biodiversity Act (Act no. 10 of 2004; NEMBA)
- National Environmental Management Act (Act no. 107 of 1998)
- The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety
- The MRC Guidelines for Ethics on Medical Research: Use of Biohazards and Radiation
- The NIH Guidelines for Research Involving Recombinant or Synthetic Nucleic Acid Molecules (NIH Guidelines)
- **Legally qualified person – Close collaboration with committee administration**

## 8. Collaboration with other Ethics Committees (institutional and at other institutions)



COP

“**INTEGRITY,**  
THE CHOICE BETWEEN  
WHAT'S CONVENIENT  
AND WHAT'S RIGHT.”

-Tony Dungy, *Uncommon*

**END**