



UCI MI Research Conduct

The development and implementation of novel technologies always presents challenges to the scientists investigating them, the regulatory agencies responsible for ensuring product safety and efficacy, and the public that has to weigh the costs and benefits of adopting them.

Unlike pharmaceuticals, insecticides and vaccines, for which clearly established pathways exist for movement of products from the laboratory to practical use, no such pipelines exist yet for genetically-engineered mosquitoes for controlling diseases.

Efforts to develop pathways started with the scientists themselves as they sought the highest standards of ethics and safety. As the science developed, agencies such as the World Health Organization ([WHO](#)), the National Academies of Sciences Engineering and Medicine ([NASEM](#)), the Foundation for the National Institutes of Health (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/29882508>) evaluated the technologies and made a number of recommendations that encourage basic studies on the technologies to proceed while advising caution for any open releases. The University of California, Irvine, Malaria Initiative acknowledges and endorses these recommendations and guidelines, and we conduct our research accordingly.

Aspects of our research require [NIH](#)– and other agency-mandated reviews and approvals from the UCI Institutional Biosafety Committee ([IBC](#)), Institutional Animals Care and Use Committee ([IACUC](#)), Institutional Review Board ([IRB](#)) and Environmental Health and Safety ([EHS](#)) office prior to commencing the research. Our facilities also have been inspected by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention ([CDC](#)) and United States Department of Agriculture ([USDA](#)). We have permits from the California Department of Public Health ([CDPH](#)) to work on mosquitoes.

We are committed to open communication about our work so as to inform both the public and scientific communities of our progress and intent. We welcome the opportunity to answer questions and receive comments about our work.