

TO: Deans and Department Heads of Faculty housed in ABI
FROM: Dr. Carole L. Cramer
ABI Executive Director
DATE: August 25, 2008
RE: Faculty housed within ABI

As we begin a new academic year and enjoy the increased activity of students returning and new faculty arriving and becoming integrated into our research and academic programs, I thought this would be a good opportunity to articulate ABI's expectations and understanding with respect to faculty and projects housed within the ABI building. Much of this has been discussed previously, but as we begin to fill up the space, to develop policies to coordinate use of shared equipment, and to increase our faculty's involvement in outreach and entrepreneurial activities, it is important to make sure we have a common understanding and effective communication.

Research in ABI

The Arkansas Biosciences Building at ASU and the annual support of ABI personnel and programs is funded by the statewide Arkansas Biosciences Institute, a 5 member consortium funded by the Arkansas Tobacco Settlement. The mandate of this consortium is to perform state-of-the-art research at the interface of agriculture and medicine with the long-term goal of positively impacting the health and wellbeing of the citizens of Arkansas. Within this context, ASU's ABI has highlighted several research clusters that include plant-based production of important proteins and compounds, plant metabolic engineering, the interface of agriculture and human addiction/disease, molecular strategies in food science, and the interface of the environment and human health.

ABI Mandated Research Areas as per Legislation	
1.	Agricultural research with medical implications
2.	Bioengineering research that expands genetic knowledge & creates new applications in agriculture/medicine
3.	Tobacco-related research that identifies and applies behavioral, diagnostic, and therapeutic knowledge to address the high level of tobacco-related illnesses in Arkansas
4.	Nutrition and other research that is aimed at preventing and treating cancer, congenital and hereditary conditions, or other related conditions
5.	Other areas which are related to primary ABI-supported programs

Faculty housed within ABI are expected to:

- Maintain a strong research programs that contribute to the ABI mandated research areas.
- Seek and obtain outside funding for research support
- Contribute expertise to and facilitate cross-disciplinary research
- Respect ABI personnel, facilities and instrumentation and take responsibility for actions of all members of one's research group. This include reporting problems or mishaps and working with ABI and home departments to develop equitable solution.
- Respect the unique research environment of ABI, including minimizing the potential of introducing field samples, plants, or other material that could contaminate or undermine research within the building and ensuring that all personnel are trained to ensure safety, and that security and access policies are followed.

Outreach and Entrepreneurial Activities.

Outcomes mandated by the ABI legislation included targeted impacts on economic development and the community. Within this context, ASU's ABI has developed a strong commitment to educational, community and business outreach and to faculty entrepreneurs.

Faculty housed within ABI are expected to support our outreach activities through talks, tours, and development of hands-on experiences for visiting students and teachers. In addition, faculty are encouraged to facilitate applications of their research through patenting, industry interaction, and technology spin-off companies in compliance with ASU policies. Within this context, it is expected that the faculty's supervisor and academic unit (including promotion, retention and tenure committee) recognize these activities as important contributions to ABI and ASU missions and that the faculty negotiate the appropriate agreements to support these activities.

Your signature below indicates that you have read and understood this memorandum.

Faculty	_____	_____	_____
	Name	Signature	Date
Department/ Academic Unit	_____		
Chair/Department Administrator	_____	_____	_____
	Name	Signature	Date
Dean/Academic Administrator	_____	_____	_____
	Name	Signature	Date
ABI Executive Director	_____	_____	_____
	Name	Signature	Date