

## Select Agent Research

The proposed experiments involve the use of **tetrodotoxin (TTX)**, a select agent listed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)/Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). We possess **less than 100 mg** of TTX at any time, which is exempt from regulation according to the USDA. Possession and use of exempt quantities of Select Agents are monitored by the responsible biosafety officers within the Department of Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S) within the University of Pittsburgh. Our lab is an approved facility by EH&S to handle, store and use TTX.

We will be using TTX at the University of Pittsburgh, in the Department of Neurobiology, on the 14<sup>th</sup> floor of the Biomedical Science Tower. We handle TTX with extreme care: we have a dedicated person who orders, stores, logs and tracks TTX for the entire lab. All laboratory members involved in research with select agents have received specific training in laboratory safety and the proper use and disposal of these agents. Each investigator will only obtain an aliquot of TTX for research at a time and sign for the aliquot. Aliquots are prepared under a fume hood with appropriate personal protective equipment, including gloves, lab coat, and mask. For disposal of used or excess TTX, the appropriate deactivation procedure will be performed, witnessed by an EH&S representative, before being disposed as hazardous waste. This proposal does not involve the transfer of TTX; however, for transfer of Select Agents, federal guidelines are followed, including filing of USDA import permits (where applicable), CDC/APHIS forms and other permits (where applicable).