The Zika virus outbreak has spread to over 33 countries and has been declared a global health emergency by the World Health Organization. On January 22, 2016, the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and the National Institute of Health issued a call to the research community, highlighting its interest in funding research on Zika virus. On February 8, 2016, President Barack Obama asked the US Congress for more than $1.8 billion in emergency funding to fight Zika virus and the mosquitoes that spread it here and abroad. Although there are limited Zika-specific funding mechanisms available at the present time, it is highly likely that Duke investigators will want to redirect their research efforts to include basic, translational and clinical studies to answer this call to understand and fight Zika virus infection.

It is imperative that investigators understand the specific risks associated with Zika virus work so that all laboratory and animal studies with this virus at Duke are performed safely. As such, members of the Duke OESO, Human Vaccine Institute and Regional Biocontainment Laboratory* have organized a brief meeting and panel discussion to help inform Duke researchers of these risks and provide information on resources available to work with an emerging priority pathogen.

Agenda:

1. Welcome (Greg Sempowski; DHVI/RBL)
2. Safe handling of Zika Virus (Wayne Thomann and Debra Hunt, OESO)
   a. Risk Assessment for Lab and Animal Work
   b. Institutional recommendations regarding safe handling
3. RBL at Duke* (Greg Sempowski, DHVI/RBL)
   a. Containment Labs - Enhanced BSL2/BSL3 Suites
   b. Research Support Units (Immunology, Virology, Animal Support)
4. RBL Virology (Charlie McGee, DHVI/RBL)
   a. Available Zika isolates and reagents
   b. Reagent Sources and Material Transfer Agreements
5. RBL Safety/Compliance (Scott Alderman, DHVI/RBL)
   a. Permits, Safety SOPs, IBC registrations, IACUC Amendments
6. Funding Opportunities (Ana Sanchez; DHVI)
7. Panel Discussion (All speakers; Herman Staats, IACUC Chair; Rich Frothingham, IBC Co-Chair; Sallie Permar, DHVI, Pediatrics)

* The Regional Biocontainment Laboratory (RBL) at Duke was built with funding from NIH to support basic research to develop drugs, diagnostics, and vaccines for emerging and reemerging infections and biodefense (NIAID UC6-AI058607). The RBL was commissioned in 2007 for BSL2, BSL3, and Select Agent research and is supported annually by the Duke School of Medicine, and administratively managed by the Duke Human Vaccine Institute.