



## Monday Morning Practice Pearls #54

### What should I do to get biologic material (e.g., pathology samples) from outside the U. S to the NIH?

#### General Information

- Research materials shipped domestically and internationally are subject to a number of Federal, State and Local regulations.
- If these regulations are not followed, shipping will be delayed and the package will be returned to the sender or destroyed and the individual cited for non-compliance and subject to civil and/or criminal penalties.

#### NIH Process

- The NIH Quarantine Permit Service Officer (QPSO) make determinations for import permit and issuance of letters for material exempted from Public Health Service import permits.
- NIH personnel who wish to receive biological material from outside the United States must submit via email an import request through QPSO. Email is to include:
  - Name, location, and phone number of person receiving biological material
  - Name, address, and phone number of person sending biological material
  - Description of biological material to be imported
    - Please indicate if the material contains an animal product or by-product (e.g. calf/bovine serum)
  - Description of work to be accomplished with imported biological material
  - For non-infectious biological material, provide a description for how the material is not infectious and/or is not suspected to be infectious
- If an import permit is required, QPSO will direct NIH personnel to the appropriate permit application process (e.g., to the Centers for Disease Control).

#### Resources

- Office of Research Services Division of Occupational Health and Safety website on Biological Materials Shipping:  
[https://www.ors.od.nih.gov/sr/dohs/safety/laboratory/BioSafety/Pages/shipping\\_biologic\\_al\\_material.aspx](https://www.ors.od.nih.gov/sr/dohs/safety/laboratory/BioSafety/Pages/shipping_biologic_al_material.aspx)
- QPSO contact information:
  - Phone: 301-496-2960
  - e-mail: [gpsso@mail.nih.gov](mailto:gpsso@mail.nih.gov)