**Are you working with cell lines?** If so, do you know when to seek Swinburne Biosafety Committee (SBC) approval?

Cell lines (or subclones) in themselves do not necessarily present a risk. However, some cell lines contain pathogenic organisms. Therefore, for every cell line that is manipulated in a laboratory, at a minimum you need to make a detailed risk assessment in order to ensure that appropriate precautions and practices are followed.

Please consider some of the following:

1. **Do you know the source of the cell line you are using?**

Risk (highest to lowest):

Human

Mammalian primate

Mammalian non primate

avian/invertebrate

1. **What is the type of cell line?**

Risk (highest to lowest):

Primary cell

Continuous

Intensively characterised.

1. **Where did the cell line come from? Has it been authenticated and have a Certificate of Analysis (CoA)?**

Risk (highest to lowest):

Found in the freezer

Another institution with no CoA

Another institution that has a CoA

Commercial culture bank (e.g. ATCC, CelBank Australia)

**For any checked**  **questions you will need to seek SBC approval. Here’s how.**

1.Review your laboratory Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) and complete a Risk Assessment (see Laboratory Manager for assistance).

2. Complete a [Biohazardous materials form](http://www.research.swinburne.edu.au/ethics/biosafety/) .

3. Send both documents to the Executive Officer, SBC ([Sheila Hamilton-Brown](mailto:shamiltonbrown@swin.edu.au?subject=Application%20for%20SBC%20approval%20for%20cell-line%20project)).