

BIOCONTAINMENT OPERATIONS FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM



The **Biocontainment Operations Fellowship Program** offered by the **National Biocontainment Training Center (NBTC)** is a fellowship program designed to train individuals on the commissioning, operation, maintenance, and ongoing validation of Biosafety Level (BSL) 2, 3, and 4 laboratories.

Offered on the campus of the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB) in Galveston, Texas, the NBTC **Biocontainment Operations Fellowship Program** includes extensive training amidst the unique confines of a robust academic biocontainment research environment. Facilities include the Robert E. Shope, M.D. laboratory, the first full-suit BSL4 laboratory located on a U.S. academic campus, and the **Galveston National Laboratory (GNL)**, one of two National Biocontainment Laboratories constructed by the National Institutes of Health in response to the federal government's call to expand the nation's infectious disease research infrastructure. Fellows will be an integral part of the GNL's Biocontainment Engineering Team.

At the end of this unique modular training program, fellows will be trained and equipped to work as a member of a biosafety/biocontainment team in a large institution, or be the sole biosafety/biocontainment officer for a small institution.

The fellowship program's course work and extensive hands-on training affords participants the skills necessary to effectively manage a biocontainment facility – from the day-to-day activities involved in the commissioning of a newly built or renovated containment laboratory facility to the ongoing operation, maintenance and validation of these laboratories. Experienced instructors from related fields will work alongside fellows; including engineers, scientists, facilities maintenance personnel, contractors, and certified biosafety officers.

Course modules offered during the fellowship include: basic microbiology; an overview of biosafety and biocontainment principles; construction methodologies specific to each level of containment; development of risk assessments; Select Agent regulations and Institutional Biosafety Committees; Good Laboratory Practices (GLP) requirements for laboratory facilities; annual facility validation process and procedure; testing methodologies for HEPA filter housing; air balancing; building automation systems and engineering controls; operation and validation of autoclaves and effluent treatment systems; space and/or equipment decontamination; certification of Class II and Class III biosafety cabinets; development of laboratory operations SOPs; and record-keeping.

Ideal candidates for this fellowship will possess a bachelor's degree in Life Sciences or Engineering.

To learn more about the
Biocontainment Operations Fellowship Program
e-mail us at ihii.web@utmb.edu.

