

Project Overview

This proposed 56,250 gross square foot infectious disease research facility will provide space for 100+ researchers and staff dedicated to the Northwest Regional Bio-containment Laboratory (NWRBL), and the University of Washington NIAID WWAMI Regional Center of Excellence. It will be self-contained such that it will rely on utilities delivered via the Campus utility tunnel system and adjacent infrastructure grid with sufficient back-up resources to continue to operate if those services are interrupted, including a fresh water supply. The building has restricted and controlled access involving multiple and progressive security zones. These security restrictions are to insure the integrity of the research programs, animal colonies, and select agents.

The NWRBL will be an essential component in the national biodefense network of research programs to combat infectious disease threats to the population. The WWAMI region (Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana and Idaho) plus Oregon possesses unique strengths in biotechnology including genomics, proteomics, and bioinformatics. The WWAMI partners occupy greater than one-quarter of the landmass of the United States. This geography is uniquely important for biodefense in that it is situated on the western coast of the United States, bordering Canada and serving as a transportation portal to Asia. Moreover, the Seattle biomedical community occupies an international leadership position in infectious diseases research including the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, the Children's Hospital and Regional Medical Center, the Institute for Systems Biology, the Rocky Mountain Laboratories of the NIAID, the Seattle Biomedical Research Institute, and leading biotechnology firms.