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Science Notes - NABT Publishes DNA Safety Guidelines

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SCIENCE NOTES

NABT Publishes DNA Safety Guidelines

Working with DNA and Bacteria in Precollege Science Classrooms, a new publication from the National Association of Biology Teachers, will help educators who wish to integrate biotechnology into their classrooms.

The guide describes safe ways to work with DNA and host organisms in high school classrooms. It has been compiled with input from experts in industry and academia in the areas of rDNA technology, biosafety and risk assessment; school district supervisors; science researchers and trainers; and high school teachers who conduct rDNA labs. Pfizer, Inc., SmithKline Beecham, Sandoz Research Institute and Hybritech have provided financial support for the project.

The guidelines are designed for teachers who already have training in working with microbes, DNA and associated chemicals. The covered topics include preparation and storage of DNA and related materials, standard microbiological practices and aseptic techniques, handling chemicals, cleanup and disposal, and supervision and references.

Working with DNA and Bacteria in Precollege Science Classrooms is available to NABT members for \$8 and to nonmembers for \$10, plus \$2 for shipping and handling. Send a check or money order to NABT, 11250 Roger Bacon Dr. #19, Reston, VA 22090. Allow 4 to 6 weeks for delivery.