During the preclinical phase of the drug development life cycle, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) requires that product safety studies be conducted in compliance with the Good Laboratory Practice (GLP) regulations (21 CFR Part 58). The regulations were created to assure quality, integrity, and reliability of study data submitted to the FDA to support clinical trial applications or marketing approvals. The GLPs contain minimal requirements for how laboratory studies are planned, performed, monitored, recorded and reported. Although GLP compliance is not required for basic exploratory studies conducted to determine the potential utility of a test article, adopting quality laboratory standards from the GLPs can prove beneficial to drug discovery research.

For over 25 years, the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine (VMCVM) GLP Program has supported faculty who conduct studies or provide services in compliance with the GLP regulations. VMCVM supports the drug discovery initiative at Virginia Tech by offering the following GLP Program resources to interested faculty and research groups:

- Quality Assurance Unit
  Quality assurance is a defined function of the GLP regulations. VMCVM has an established, on-site Quality Assurance Unit to monitor studies conducted in compliance with the GLP regulations.

- Training
  Customized training on the GLP regulations and elements of the GLP quality system for individuals or research groups

- Facility Compliance
  Assistance with navigating the challenges of implementing GLP compliance or a GLP-like quality system in a university laboratory setting

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