School of Biomedical Sciences



**Standard Operating Procedures**

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| **Title** | Use of a waterbath |
| **Date** | 11/04/2022 |
| **Equipment** | **Make: Model:**  |
| **Location** | **Bld: 65 Skerman Room: 210** |
| **Equipment** **Custodian** | **Contact: Darryl Whitehead** | **Expert user: Darryl Whitehead** |
| **Task** | This task is performed on both human and animal specimens, in both a teaching and research environments  |
| **Pre start checks** | * Ingestion of any specimen parts is prohibited
* Ensure all materials are prepared before commencing procedure including all instruments, and that tissue, disposal method, start up and finish materials/ procedures are in place.
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| **Safety considerations** | **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):** safety glasses (RA), lab coat, gloves (RA) and fully enclosed shoes, **General precautions**:* Long hair must be tied back; loose objects from head/neck/ sleeve area must be covered by lab coat.
* Always alert your supervisor if you or someone around you is feeling ill/faint
* Do not do this procedure in a position where you are likely to be bumped into, and that there is adequate lighting for the procedure.
* Properly place dissection specimens on the bench, do not dissect a specimen whilst holding it. Use dissection tables, boards, and clamps where possible.
* Handle scalpels, and other sharp instruments with care, do not wave around or use instruments in a manner not designed for its purpose. Do not walk around lab area with a scalpel blade.
* Cut away from the body and away from other persons
* Avoid excessive force when working with sharp scalpels, use scissors where possible
* Specimen parts are not to leave the laboratory unless instructed by a supervisor.
* Cover sharp protrusions in dissections specimen, such as bones with calico to prevent injury during dissection
* **Emergency Procedures:**

In the case of emergency, All incidents should be reported to the Facility Staff and Manager, Ext 51929, Safety Coordinator, Ext 53221, and/or Security 53333.All injuries must be reported to SBMS HSW Management, Ext 53221 or 51269, Building Management, Ext 53105.All incidents and injuries must be recorded in the UQ Incident and Injury Database. |
| **Procedure** | Ensure that the waterbath has been electrically tested.Examine the electrical cable. If damaged in any way, immediately take to Biomedical Engineering (Level 3) to be repaired.Prior to turning on the Waterbath check the water level to ensure that the higher than the element .Select the temperature which you require the water to heat to and set using the temperature dial.If you are not familiar with the Waterbath it is advisable to securely place a thermometer in the water in a safe position. **DO NOT USE A MERCURY THERMOMETER** Turn on using the power switch..  If the temperature is over 50ºC be careful, touching the water may cause burns.Wear heat proof gloves and use tongs / forceps to removed samples in this situation.5) If the temperature of the water is high regular checks are needed to ensure that the element is still covered with water with the increase in evaporation..5) When completed, immediately turn the waterbath off. |
| **Legislative requirements** | * AS 2243. Safety in Laboratories.
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[[1]](#endnote-1)

1. Date of issue: 11/04/2022

Next review: 11/04/2025 [↑](#endnote-ref-1)