



The University of Western Ontario
Biohazards Subcommittee Meeting

Minutes of March 25th 2011
10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., SSB 5104

Present: Dr. J. Millar (Chair), Dr. S. Barr, Dr. S. Koval, Dr. I. Welch (for Dr. T. deLangley), Dr. G. Dekaban, Dr. S. Siu, J. Stanley, E. Gray (OH&S Intern)

Regrets: Dr. T. deLangley

1.0 Introductions

Everyone introduced themselves to Dr. Ian Welch, a veterinarian from Animal Care and Veterinary Services.

2.0 Approval of Minutes – February 15, 2011

Approved: The description in item 3.22 should be “injected” instead of “in injected”. Section 4.0 is unclear. Add a statement at the end that states “operational and equipment costs” as the reason why the Biotron Level 3 will not be operational.

3.0 Biological Agents Registry Forms

3.1 Reid, G. (Re-visit)

Tabled: The committee would like clarification on what happens after the agar plates. The researcher must clarify the species (not strains). The research summary states that the strains are highly infectious, although they are not. The changes that result have not been described in table 4.2. Section 4.4 should be completed even if the answer is ‘no’. The committee would like more information in section 14.3.

3.2 Gunaratnam, L. (Modification only)

Tabled: DMSO does not need to be listed because it’s not a biological toxin. Clarification on toxin amounts is needed.

3.3 Shepherd, T. (Re-visit)

Tabled: Training of one personnel is incomplete training. SV 40 large T antigen should be checked ‘yes’ in section 4.4 because they will be using 293T cells. Table 4.2 should be updated. The changes that result from ID1 and ID3 should also be listed. It is unclear what he is doing with ID1 and ID3. The research summary should be re-written in plain language. It is unclear what is going into the adenovirus vectors. The form also states that adenovirus is not infections

which is incorrect. Section 4.6 should be 'yes'. If he is using virus and oncogenes the containment level should be at least level 2+.

3.4 Dixon, S.J.

Tabled: The genes discussed in their summary are not listed. It is unclear how the toxins are used. More detail about the changes that will result is required in tables 4.2 and 4.3. The committee requires a more complete list of the genes that will be used and their specific effects.

3.5 Noble, E.

Tabled: It is unclear what the biohazards are from the use of biological agents section of the form. The form indicates that they are containment level two but they have not listed any biological agent that requires this containment level. The personnel listed do not have the proper training.

3.6 Lewis, J., Veldhuizen R. and Yamashita, Y.

Tabled: Table 2.4 needs to be completed. The form states that they are going to use shRNA to knock down genes to make cells more proliferative. This work should be containment level 2+. Section 4.4 should be updated to reflect that they will be using SV 40 large T antigen. It is unclear what is going into the lentivirus. Notify the researcher that the amount of toxin they wish to store is greater than one lethal dose.

3.7 Dick, F.

(Modification only)

Approved: According to Gail Ryder he is certified for level 2+ work. The MSDS calls for a P95 respirator. HEK 293 cells should be added to the modification form.

3.8 Prado, M.

(Modification only)

3.8.1 Prado *in vivo* project

Approved: Pending signature from the PI. Quarantine for the animals is approximately 14 days in level 2 according to the viral vector policy. This quarantine period allows for shedding of the virus. The injections will be done in the old primate unit. This protocol should be treated the same as Dr. Coolen's protocol.

3.9 Deroo, B.

(Re-visit)

Approved: Query what affect the genes hSpon1 and mSpon1 have on proliferation. For one of the toxins, the risk assessment sheets were done using the toxic dose not the lethal dose so they are not valid.

3.10 Heinrichs, D.

Approved: In section 1.2 the genus should be spelled out. Section 7.1 should be 'no'. Send a note to the PI to inform them that they will be storing and using more than one lethal dose of their toxins.

3.11 Litchfield, D.

Tabled: The full name of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* should be listed in section 1.2. Table 4.2 should be updated with the genes they plan to transfect that are involved in cell proliferation. Section 4.4 should be updated to reflect their use of HeLa and HEK 293 cells.

3.12 Fraser, D.

(Re-visit)

Approved: No issues.

3.13 Semenikhin, O.

(Re-visit)

Approved: Clarify where the SV 40 large T antigen is coming from. Full name of personnel is required. Inform the PI that there is no need for both bleaching and autoclaving. Update the funding section of the form once his grant has been approved.

3.14 Krishna, P.

(Re-visit)

Tabled: Dr. Siu would like more information on how they are working with spores.

Last Minute Additions

3.15 Feng, Q.

(Re-visit)

Approved: Section 4.4 should be 'yes' for E1A oncogene. An MSDS or equivalent should be included. Clarify what mouse strain they will be using. Inform the PI that there is no need for both bleaching and autoclaving. This project will be done at Level 2+ in the Level 3 facility.

3.16 Others?

None

4.0 Biotron Level 3 Update

The Biotron level 3 facility will be used as a level 2 space.

5.0 Level 3 Medical Surveillance Update

Dr. Siu is looking at getting the HIV post exposure protocol established for anyone who may have an exposure. There will be a treatment dose available at Workplace Health during business hours. This policy covers any UWO employee who requires immediate

treatment during business hours and when the Occupational Health Nurse is not on vacation. Users will not know when Kristine Brown, Occupational Health Nurse, is on vacation so they should call Workplace Health before they arrive to confirm. If Workplace Health is not available they should go to the emergency room at University Hospital.

6.0 Level 3 Access: Melissa Pickering

Approved: Melissa is an ACVS manager and will be helping with the Haeryfar study.

7.0 Vaccinia Project

Dr. Colby will immunize the one individual so far who will go through the Vaccinia vaccination program.

7.1 Undergraduates

The level 3 manual and the August 13, 2010 letter to Dr. Haeryfar state that undergraduate students are not eligible to work in Level 3 on the Vaccinia project. Employees of ACVS that are undergraduates may work in Level 3 on the Vaccinia project as long as they are employees of the University and would be covered in case of an incident.

7.2 Emergency Technicians

Dr. Welch questioned whether maintenance personnel should also go through the Workplace Health program for Vaccinia in case they need to enter the facility under emergency circumstances. Dr. Siu informed the committee that individuals who are not UWO employees need to be educated on the risks before they enter the facility but their medical surveillance is the responsibility of their company, not the University. If the work these maintenance personnel will be doing is in close proximity with the animals, the animals should be removed, and the area should be decontaminated before the workers enter. Dr. Welch said that this will likely be possible, but in rare cases, service persons will need to work in/with potentially contaminated area(s) or equipment.

Dr. Welch informed that this situation applies to a small number of maintenance workers. He questioned whether we should hold an information session for these individuals. Dr. Siu stated that this conversation should be had with people in management positions of the companies who are contracted to do the work. Western's legal department should also be contacted for advice on how to handle this issue. Dr. Welch agreed to contact the companies and will work with J. Stanley to draft a question for legal counsel. Dr. Millar will present this question to legal counsel once it is ready.

7.3 After-Hours Post-Exposure Care

Dr. Colby does not feel comfortable taking the role of after-hours post-exposure care. Health Canada is reluctant to release the immunoglobulin unless there is an exposure. Dr. Siu has asked Dr. Colby for the contact information for Health Canada so he can discuss this issue with them directly. A protocol may have to

be created in conjunction with Health Canada if they decide to not release the immunoglobulin.

Those who are vaccinated and have an exposure do not need the immunoglobulin if they have an exposure. There will be a provisional SOP written for May and June that allows Dr. Haeryfar (who has been vaccinated) to begin working. Only vaccinated personnel should be working after hours.

If an individual who has been vaccinated has an exposure they should complete an accident report. Dr. Siu will provide information indicating that if someone has been vaccinated and has certain symptoms, they must seek medical attention from Workplace Health or UH emergency after-hours. All unvaccinated personnel must seek medical attention.

8.0 E-mail Approvals for Modifications

The policy will remain the same. E-mail approvals for modifications will only be put into place in cases where an individual needs an approval quickly. According to the terms of references, only three committee members need to vote to have quorum to approve a form.

9.0 Terms of Reference: ACVS Veterinarian

The Terms of Reference should be changed from "ACVS Director" to 'ACVS Director and/or designated veterinarian'.

10.0 Other Business

10.1 Biological Agents Registry Form Update

A statement should be added to the modification form indicating that it should be typed. On section 1.2 of the Biological Agents Registry Form include a statement saying that the full scientific name of the agent should be included.

11.0 Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 11:33am.