**The University of Western Ontario**
Biohazards Subcommittee Meeting

**Minutes of June 17th, 2011**
**10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., SSB 5189**

**Present**: Dr. J. Millar (Chair), Dr. S. Barr, Dr. G. Dekaban, Dr. S. Koval, Dr. T. deLangley, Dr. S. Siu, J. Stanley, S. Xhiku (OH&S Intern)

**Regrets:** None.

## 1.0 Introductions

The committee introduced themselves.

## 2.0 Approval of Minutes – May 27th, 2011

Motioned: Dr. G. Dekaban Seconded: Dr. S. Siu

## 3.0 Biological Agents Registry Forms

### 3.1 Berube, N.

**Tabled:** The disposal procedure of the cell cultures is unclear – is bleach neutralized? The *E.coli* strains listed in Tables 1.2 and 4.2 do not match (i.e. DH5 alpha). Sections 4.2 and 4.3 should list the changes in cells. Section 4.4 should reflect the use of E1A and large T-antigen.

### 3.2 Dekaban, G. (Modification only)

**Approved:** No issues.

### 3.3 Lewis, J. (Modification only)

**Approved:** The list of plasmids given on the form does not correspond to the list on the previous Biological Agents Registry Form due to typographical errors/omissions in the biosafety database that will be corrected.

**3.4 Litchfield, D.**

**Tabled:** Section 4.2 should reflect the changes in cells. Questions 4.4 should reflect the use of E1A oncogenes and T-antigen from HEK 293T. Does the lab really culture 10 litres of *E. coli* as listed in Table 1.2?

**3.5 Tyml, K.**

**Tabled:** The committee does not understand why the containment level for the cell lines is marked as level 2 in section 2.4. The committee also noted that section the MSDS for the LPS that is to be used in the research is missing. In addition, section 8 should be filled out for the use of LPS.

**3.6 Urquhart, B. (Modification only)**

**Approved:** No issues.

**3.7 Margaritis, A. (Revisit, April 2011)**

**Tabled:** The research summary needs improvement; the abstract is not appropriate and details on all organisms need to be included. What are the yellow bags used for? Please clarify the atm used for autoclaving, as 1 atm is not sufficient. Section 4.2 does not indicate the source of the plasmid that is to be used.

**3.8 Knoll, J.**

**Tabled:** Section 4.2 should detail what changes occur in the cells. In addition, the *E. coli* waste should not be incinerated, but autoclaved instead.

**3.9 Goldberg, H. (Revisit, April 2011)**

**Approved:** Section 4.6 should indicate 'Yes'. In section 4.4 the use of oncogene E1A should be marked 'Yes'.

**3.10 Zhang, J. (Revisit, May 2011)**

**Tabled:** In Section 1.2 the quantity of cells to be cultured is unclear. The committee is confused as to the details of the experiement, whether the nanoparticles will be complexed to the antibiotic, or whether they will only be used as a precipitation tool. The biological agent is marked as level 1, but the research is marked as level 2 containment level.

**3.11 Shepherd, T. (Revisit, March 2011)**

**Approved:** Section 4.4 should be marked as 'Yes' for the use of E1A oncogenes. The animal work is Level 2.

**3.12 Damjanovski, S. (Revisit, April 2011)**

**Approved:** Section 4.1 should be marked 'Yes' and sections 4.4 – 4.7 is no.

**Last Minute Additions**

**3.13 Others?**

None.

## 4. Biological Agents Registry Form – Fillable Format (J. Stanley)

Section 4.2 is much clearer on the new form. Questions 4.4-4.7 should be moved to directly follow section 4.3. The numbering of section 5.0 needs to be corrected.

The Sub-committee will ask the researchers to highlight in yellow and bold the sections that have been changed so the Sub-committee may be able to evaluate re-submitted forms more efficiently. When the form is sent out it must be specified that it is to be returned by e-mail.

The form needs to be tested on Macintosh computers as well as PCs to check for any formatting or compatibility problems. J. Stanley indicated that she would contact Peter Hawke to address these issues with the new fillable Biological Agents Registry Form.

## 5. Sheep Unit Update (T. deLangley)

Based on recent PCR test results, we know that the sheep unit has been contaminated since early November. A meeting was held with the stakeholders, including O&HS representatives, Physical Plant, members of the research group, ACVS and Workplace Health to address the issue. All individuals who entered the unit since November have been notified that *Coxiella burnetii* was present in the unit at that time. Workplace Health has offered to test everyone who may have been exposed to the bacterial pathogen and is waiting for the list of potential individuals so they can be contacted by Workplace Health. Dr. T. deLangley will ensure that the list of workers is forwarded to Workplace Health.

A decontamination process will take place. The process was discussed at a meeting with HEPA Filters Inc. A decontamination plan is being developed in consultation with

the Public Health Agency of Canada. Once the plan is finalized the University will proceed with hiring HEPA Filters Inc.

Sheep will return to the unit in October. The future of the sheep unit is in question since the Principal Investigator Dr. Brian Richardson will not be involved in sheep research after this year and the maintenance cost of the sheep unit is very expensive. The committee suggested that a better screening protocol should be put in place to test for *Coxiella burnetii* or that the sheep unit be reopened outside of campus.

**6. Next meeting date: July 9th? (J. Stanley)**

The next meeting will be held on July 8th. Drs Millar, Barr, Dekaban, Koval and Siu are available. Dr. deLangley is not available, but Dr. Welch may be. Dr. Dekaban is not available for the August and September meetings, but Ron Noseworthy may be available.

**7. Other Business (J. Millar)**

None.

**8. Adjournment (J. Millar)**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:11 am.