



The University of Western Ontario
Biohazards Subcommittee Meeting

Minutes of May 27th, 2011
9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m., SSB 5104

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

Regrets: Dr. S. Barr, Dr. S. Koval

1.0 Introductions

The committee introduced themselves to the new OH&S intern, S. Xhiku.

2.0 Approval of Minutes – April 8, 2011

Motioned: Dr. G. Dekaban

Seconded: Dr. T. deLangley

3.0 Biological Agents Registry Forms

3.1 Holdsworth, D.

(Modification only)

Approved: No issues.

3.2 Strong, M.

(Modification only)

Approved: No issues.

3.3 Postovit, L.

(Modification only)

Approved: No issues.

3.4 Rylett, R.

(Modification only)

Approved: There's no specification of where the work will be done. The room number should be noted. Confirm that this room is level 2.

3.5 Merrifield P.

Tabled: There is a lack of information in the summary. Section 4 does not correspond to what the research summary indicates. The last few lines of the research summary mention that transduction will be performed; if so, the committee needs to know which vectors will be used, which genes, and what is being injected. If transfection is being done, information on the plasmids is needed. Section 4 is deemed incomplete.

3.6 Creuzenet, C. (Modification only)

Approved: No issues.

3.7 Cumming, R. (Modification only)

Approved: No issues.

3.7.1 Cumming, R.

Approved: No issues. In future, researcher should submit only one form.

3.8 MacDougall-Shackleton, S.

Tabled: Songbirds do not carry West Nile, etc. The response to section 14.2 is determined as insufficient and section 14.1 needs to be completed. The committee is not clear on the connection between *E. coli* and *Candida albicans* with songbirds. Clarification is needed.

3.9 Percival-Smith, A. (Revisit, Jan 2011)

Approved: No issues.

3.10 Zhang, J.

Tabled: The committee is not clear in the purpose of putting in antibiotics in the growth medium of the bacteria used for the experiment. The work is being done in the Engineering building, however, based on section 13.2, the room is not certified as a level 2 containment room. The laboratory personnel are not properly trained to work with PERV 18, an endogenous porcine virus which is transmissible to humans.

3.11 Sims, S. (Revisit, Jan 2011)

Approved: Section 4.6 should indicate 'yes'.

3.12 Summers, K.

Approved: The committee has no issue with the information provided. The Screening Lab for Immune Disorders is a service lab and as such should collect information from users so that they are aware of what hazards are brought into the facility. An example of a form that can be implemented at this facility can come from Kristen Chadwick. J. Stanley will make the on-site safety officer, Jeff Tucker, aware of this.

3.13 Hoffman, L. (Revisit, April 2011)

Approved: No issues. A protocol involving lentiviral work is coming.

3.14 Lee, T.Y.

(Revisit, April 2011)

Approved: This is level 1 and is not a human pathogen. There may be a risk to other rabbits, however Dr. deLangley indicated that this is addressed by standard animal handling procedures.

3.15 Bhattacharya, M.

Tabled: Oncogenes are used and therefore the last box needs to be filled out properly in Table 4.2. Section 4.4 should reflect the use of T antigens and EIA oncogene.

Last Minute Additions

3.16 Others?

None.

4.0 Vaccinia Update

Dr. Millar, Dr. I Welch and J. Stanley have met with S. Jarrett. There is a draft letter directed at contractors like HEPA who may need to enter the Vaccinia room. I. Welch has made changes to the letter and has sent it to S. Jarrett.

An information session for physical plant workers is set up for May 27th (today) and June 1st to inform the physical plant workers about the risks. The immunoglobulin issue still has to be worked out as the treatment needs to be administered via IV and Workplace Health is not authorized to do so. A protocol needs to be set up with University Hospital to ensure that treatment can be given to workers if need be.

5.0 Level 3 Medical Surveillance Update

On-campus emergency medical services are not available for people working with HIV after hours. This has been an on-going issue for the committee. There are concerns that the workers will not be seen within two hours of a possible infection. Dr. J. Millar has sent a letter to J. O'Brien and Shelagh Hodson, the Clinical Director for Workplace. J. Stanley is in the process of contacting other universities about their procedures.

6.0 Sheep Unit Update

When the research ended this spring, the cotyledons saved from surgeries were sent for PCR testing. The PCR results came back and one of the sheep cotyledons tested positive for *Coxiella burnetii*, although the serology result for that sheep was negative when it entered the sheep unit in November. Currently access to the facility is denied to anyone who had previous card access. No one can get in unless they speak to Dr. T. deLangley or Wilma Lagerwerf.

The sheep unit was built as a containment unit so there is no crisis; however, it must be determined whether the unit should be decontaminated prior to the next round of work. Dr. T. deLangley is holding a meeting with all the stakeholders to have a discussion about whether the entire facility should be decontaminated. There is a concern that some equipment, like ultrasounds, might not work properly post-decontamination.

7.0 Next meeting date: June 10th?

The committee suggested postponing the meeting for later in June. Tentative dates will be sent out.

8.0 Other Business

Dr. T. deLangley expressed concern about difficulties encountered in animal use protocol approvals from the Radiation Safety Officer at Lawson.

Dr. S. Siu informed the committee that the Anatomy department at the Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry has refused to accept MRSA positive cadavers despite the embalming of the bodies. Dr. S. Siu will send a request to the Chair and Dean of the Anatomy department to reconsider this decision.

9.0 Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 10:20 am.