



The University of Western Ontario
Biohazards Subcommittee Meeting

Minutes of April 8th 2011
9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m., SSB 4220

Present: Dr. J. Millar (Chair), 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. S. Barr, Dr. T. deLangley

1.0 Introductions

None needed.

2.0 Approval of Minutes – March 25, 2011

Approved: Pending small edits to comments relating to Reid, Shepherd, Lewis et al. and Krishna protocols.

3.0 Biological Agents Registry Forms

3.1 Daley, M.

Tabled: This form does not include information about the use and storage of all of the biological agents he is working with. The committee would like clarification on where the work is being done. An animal protocol should be listed in section 2.2 if applicable.

3.2 Wang, R.

Approved: Ensure that the preparation of Tamoxifen in powder form is done in the fumehood per Tamoxifen policy. In section 2.3 HEK 293 cells are listed as rodent when they should be under human. E1A oncogene should be checked in section 4.4 to reflect the use of HEK 293 cells. PANC-1 and AR42J should be listed as level 1 cell lines.

3.3 Choy, W-Y.

Approved: There is no description of what is being done with cPRP. Clarify what 'TC' and 'Chibby' are. Clarification on the waste procedure is needed (i.e. Wescodyne or bleach). In section 14.2, liquid antibacterial soap should be used.

3.4 Goldberg, H.

(Re-visit)

Tabled: Table 1.2 needs to be updated to reflect that adenovirus is a human pathogen. Clarify whether he is making adenovirus (and if so, what volume) or purchasing pre made adenovirus from Invitrogen.

3.5 Lee, T and Hoffman, L.

(Re-visit)

Tabled: This protocol should be submitted only under Dr. Hoffman's name. It is unclear where the virus materials are coming from. The form should be sent back for resubmission.

3.6 Reider, M.

(Re-visit)

Approved: Clarify which strain of E.coli is being used as the MSDS does not reflect what is written on the form. E1A should be 'yes' given that HEK 293 cells are used.

3.7 Margaritis, A.

(Re-visit)

Tabled: The form should be updated to that that it is not the vials that are freeze dried it is the cultures. Section 1.2 should have each bacteria listed individually, not just "Bacteria". The abstract should reflect what he is going to do (not what he has already done). It does not reflect what is done with *C. beijerinckii*.

3.8 Possmayer, F.

(Re-visit)

Tabled: Question 1.1 should be 'yes'. HEK 293 cells should be listed under human in table 2.3. Question 4.1 is not completed. Unclear whether they are using modifications involving plasmids. Section 4.2 should be updated with the changes that result. E1A oncogene should be checked in section 4.4 to reflect the use of HEK 293 cell line. Clarification on how they use isopropanol to disinfect is needed, as this is a flammable substance.

3.9 Damjanovski, S.

Tabled: Sections 2.4, 4.2, 4.3, 13.2 and 13.3 need to be completed. It is unclear from his description how he is using E. coli. Inform the lab that it is not necessary to do chemical sterilization by bleach and autoclave.

3.10 Wan, W.

(Modification only)

Approved: No issues.

3.11 Gunaratnam, L.

(Modification only)

Approved: No issues.

Last Minute Additions?

3.12 Others?

None.

4.0 Level 3 First Aid Measures/Follow-up

Dr. Siu informed the committee that there will be a level 3 information session for all workers of the facility this afternoon. HIV, HTLV, lentiviral vectors and Vaccinia virus are all possibly being used in the facility.

The level 3 post exposure protocol is in process. A treatment dose is now at Workplace Health during business hours, 8:30 am - 4:00 pm. However, it is clear that researchers need to work in the facility after-hours and on weekends.

Health Canada has agreed to ship us the immunoglobulin if there is an exposure to vaccinia and complications occur. The immunoglobulin can be shipped within 24 hours. The immunoglobulin has to be administered intravenously over an hour. At this time Workplace Health is not equipped to do so.

What is an individual to do if they have an exposure on the weekend or after hours? This scenario has been discussed many times but the committee has had difficulty finding a solution as the University Hospital emergency room will not put a priority on treatments for HIV.

5.0 Vaccinia SOP

The provisional Vaccinia SOP states that only people who are vaccinated will be doing hands on work with animal tissue and animal bedding. No students or ACVS animal care staff will be work with Vaccinia. There is still the possibility that UWO employees might have to go in to the facility after hours. Dr. Siu pointed out that if they were to become contaminated it is not considered an emergency. Regular injury response procedures will be followed where personnel complete an accident/incident report and report to Workplace Health during business hours.

Workers that could possibly need to enter the facility need to be pre-educated through some format. In future years, this education should be incorporated in the Level 3 information session given to Physical Plant workers during the Level 3 shut-down. This year, a special session will be needed for Physical Plant to inform them that Vaccinia will be used in the facility.

Non-UWO personnel that might need to enter the facility (eg. H.E.P.A. Filters Inc, Allen Town) need to be provided with educational material.

6.0 Acknowledgement

The chair acknowledged the contribution of Emily Gray, to the Committee. Emily is the OH&S intern. She will be going back to school and doing her 4th year thesis project with the Kidder lab in the Fall.

7.0 Other Business

7.1 Incomplete Biological Agents Registry Forms

Dr. Millar spoke about the problems this committee has faced with receiving forms that are illegible, incomplete, incorrect and/or unacceptable. There are many issues that are recurring. Dr. Millar questioned whether there was a way to send a mass communication to people to educate them about common mistakes on the forms. This type of communication could be sent to the Deans and could then be distributed to all faculty it applies to.

J. Stanley and Dr. Millar will discuss an appropriate communication to send out regarding common mistakes on forms and submitting incomplete forms. The committee would like these forms sent back and will not review them if they are not filled in correctly and completely.

7.2 Donation to Anatomy and Cell Biology

Dr. Siu informed the committee that there was a donation ready for the University of bodies that could potentially be carriers of MRSA. The morgue rejected these bodies for fear of staff contamination. These bodies are fixed. Dr. Siu will follow up with the department of anatomy as to why these bodies were rejected.

7.3 Modifications to the Biological Agents Registry Form

Table 4.2 of the form should be reformatted and re-worded. Will there be a change due to transformation of the bacteria? What is the consequence of transfected or transduced genes in eukaryotic cells?

Questions 4.4, 4.5 and 4.6 should all be grouped under the same section.

7.4 Revisits for Biological Agents Registry Forms

The date of the last re-visit should be put on the agenda when possible.

8.0 Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 11:23 am.