



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

**Minutes of August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2011**  
**9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m., SSB 4220**

**Present:** Dr. J. Millar (Chair), Dr. S. Koval, Dr. S. Siu, Dr. I. Welch, R. Noseworthy, J. Stanley, S. Xhiku (OH&S Intern)

**Regrets:** Dr. S. Barr, Dr. G. Dekaban, Dr. T. deLangley

**1.0 Introductions**

None needed.

**2.0 Approval of Minutes – July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

Motioned: Dr. S. Koval

Seconded: Dr. S. Siu

**3.0 Biological Agents Registry Forms**

**3.1 Rieder, M.**

**Tabled:** The committee is concerned as to where and who will grow *Listeria*. There is a post doctorate fellow missing from the personnel list.

**3.2 Turley, E.**

**Approved:** Pending clarification of storage and disposal procedures.

**3.3 Merrifield, P.**

**(Revisit, May 2011)**

**Approved:** Cell transduction not being done, per e-mail from Dr. Merrifield.

**3.4 Ferguson, P.**

**Tabled:** The Use of E1A oncogene and SV40 should be marked 'Yes'. In addition, the lentiviral map needs to be provided.

**3.5 Mequanint, K.**

**Approved:** No issues

**3.6 Laviolette, S.**

**Approved:** No issues

**3.7 Knoll, J.**

**(Revisit, June 2011)**

**Approved:** In Section 3.2 the supplier name is not specific enough and the Committee requires clarification. The researcher has a level 2 room that has been recently inspected.

**3.8 MacDougall-Shackleton, S.**

**(Revisit, May 2011)**

**Approved:** No issues.

**3.9 Litchfield, D.**

**(Revisit, June 2011)**

**Approved:** No issues.

**3.10 Chidiac, P.**

**Approved:** In the section describing the disposal procedure of biological agents, the researcher states that the media will be sterilized with bleach; instead it should be “treated with bleach”. In addition the sterilization of the biological safety cabinet should be done with ethanol instead of isopropyl alcohol.

**3.11 Watson, A.**

**Approved:** Section 1.1 should indicate ‘Yes’. Section 6 needs to be completed to reflect the use of mice.

### 3.12 Mehta, S.

**Tabled:** In Section 1.2 the researcher should indicate the volume of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* grown in the lab instead of the density. The Committee also remarked on the fact that 50 microlitres of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* per mouse is a very high dosage so ACVS will verify this dosage. The form should say that the bacteria are in a 'suspension' instead of a solution. The Committee requires clarification on the use of human blood or body fluid (re: isolation of neutrophils). The researcher also mentions doing work in a fumehood, it should be a biological safety cabinet.

### 3.13 Berube, N.

**(Revisit, June 2011)**

**Approved:** In Section 1.2, viruses such as adenovirus and retrovirus should be noted as pathogenic. Question 4.6 should be yes. The Committee also noticed that the list of personnel needs updating (re: Jennifer Li) and that workers should provide their Western e-mail address on the form.

### 3.14 Drysdale, T.

**(Revisit, July 2011)**

**Approved:** No issues.

### 3.15 Li, S.

**(Modification only)**

**Approved:** No issues.

### 3.16 Bartha, R.

**Tabled:** The research description is too brief. The Committee also noticed that there's no biosafety training for Nevin McVicar. Section 8.1 should be marked 'No' as the researcher is using purpose bred dogs.

### 3.17 Bernards, M.

**Tabled:** In Section 1.2, the containment level for the last biological agent is missing. The organism's name *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* should be spelled correctly. The Committee requires more details as to how the stocks are prepared rather than "routine culture". Section 4.2 is not completed; the gene transfected, the plasmids used and the change following the transfection should all be noted.

### **3.18 Heit, B.**

**Approved:** This is a new researcher with no students as of yet. In the storage and disposal section, the researcher should write that the culturing of the organisms will take place in Room 3004E of the Dental Sciences Building instead of the 'common bacterial culture facility'.

### **Last Minute Additions**

### **3.19 Margaritis, A.**

**(Revisit, June 2011)**

**Tabled:** The abstract should detail what the researcher plans to do in the future, instead of giving a description of previous work. The autoclaving temperature has not been changed from 120°C at 1 atm. Section 2.3 is incorrectly filled out as microorganisms are listed as cells lines. The procedure in Section 14.2 is unsatisfactory.

### **3.20 Zhang, J.**

**(Revisit, July 2011)**

**Tabled:** The researcher still has not addressed many of the outstanding issues from the previous Committee meeting. The Committee would like the researcher to write the summary in her own words rather than giving the Committee information from the supplier. The Position Hazard Communication Form is still listed as a harm reduction measure. Tables 2.2, 2.3, and 5.1 are incomplete. Section 14.2 is inappropriately completed. The researcher did not indicate on the form which researcher she consulted with in completing the form. Dr. Millar will send the researcher an e-mail detailing all the issues that need to be corrected prior to the form being approved.

### **3.21 Others?**

None.

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

The updated form is now posted on the website and available to all researchers who need to complete their Biological Agents Registry Form. The Committee is looking forward to any feedback from the researchers.

The section numbers (for example Question 6.1 onwards) on the Biological Agents Registry Form should be modified.

## **5. Sheep Unit Update**

**(I. Welch, J. Stanley)**

The facility decontamination is expected to have finished by August 17<sup>th</sup>. The decontamination of the unit may also serve an opportunity to recertify the facility. J. Stanley has spoken to Facilities Management about a potential recertification of the Sheep Unit. Facilities Management informed J. Stanley that the Sheep Unit is interconnected with the West Valley Building in terms of ventilation, power supply, etc. As a result, re-certification tests that involve a shutdown of the unit to test for fan failure and emergency power response may be completed only if the entire building is shut down.

There is no annual re-certification requirement for the Sheep Unit – re-certification is to be completed based on operational experience and necessity. Tests that can still be completed without affecting the West Valley Building are the smoke pencil test, the backflow preventer test, biological safety cabinet recertification etc. As a result of the connection between the unit and the building, only a partial recertification may be done.

## **6. Tamoxifen**

**(I. Welch, S. Siu)**

Tamoxifen was injected in mice in the Pickering lab in Robarts without a modification form being sent to Health and Safety and without an AUS protocol submitted for the mice used in the experiment. Two female technicians from ACVS have handled the mice without awareness of the Tamoxifen injections and may have been exposed to the drug. The mice have been put in containment in a Level 2 room and will be coming out of containment by the end of next week.

ACVS has sent the list of potentially exposed technicians as well as the dose of Tamoxifen used for injections to Workplace Health. If gloves have been worn, then the risk of Tamoxifen exposure is very low. Dr. Siu will follow up with the people potentially exposed.

The Committee suggested drafting a formal letter to the Principle Investigator from Dr. Millar. The issues are: the laboratory's noncompliance with AUS protocol procedures, the usage of Tamoxifen without the modification form being approved, the fact that workers were not aware of the hazards encountered, and that Tamoxifen should be listed on the workers' Position Hazard Communication forms.

## **7. Next meeting date: September 9th?**

**(J. Stanley)**

The next meeting will be held on September 9<sup>th</sup>. Drs. Millar, Koval and Siu are available. Dr. Dekaban will be unable to attend but Ron Noseworthy will be available. ACVS will let us know their availability.

**8. Other Business**

**(J. Millar)**

The Committee wished Sintia Xhiku a happy birthday.

**9. Adjournment**

**(J. Millar)**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 am.