The University of Western Ontario
Biohazards Subcommittee Meeting

Minutes of November 16th, 2012
10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., SSB 4220

Present: Dr. J. Millar (Chair), Dr. S. Barr, Dr. S. Koval, Dr. T. deLangley, Dr. S. Siu, R. Noseworthy, J. Stanley, S. Seaton (OH&S Intern)

Regrets: Dr. G. Dekaban, Dr. I. Welch

1. Introductions

None needed.

2. Approval of Minutes – October 12th, 2012

A correction was made to Section 7.1 of the minutes to reflect that it should read "Biohazards *Form* for Dr. Luyt" instead of "Biohazards *From* for Dr. Luyt".

Motioned: Dr. S. Siu Seconded: Dr. S. Koval

3. Office Approvals

There were four office approvals.

4. Biological Agents Registry Forms

4.1 Kerfoot, S. (Modification)

Approved: The committee discussed the storage of approximately twice the lethal dose of the pertussis toxin. J. Stanley showed that the policy in place at Western only refers to the *usage* of less than one lethal dose of the toxin, not the storage. The issue will only be addressed if the amount being stored is much greater than the lethal dose.

The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) requires Level 2 for the use of pertussis toxin. West Valley is not Level 2; however the researcher does not want to use one of the Level 2 rooms in the Health Sciences facility. The researcher, Dr. Welch and J. Stanley are working with PHAC to put control measures in place that will satisfy PHAC.

The researcher needs to indicate Containment Level 2 for Added Biohazards on his form.

Since the section regarding Added Biohazards is often missed on the Modification Form, the Committee made some suggestions for how this can be avoided. Some options were to move the line above the signature; to move the line to the first page or to add another column for containment level in the table.

4.2 Prato, F.

Approved: The researcher needs to confirm that bleaching tissues is the proper disposal method, as the Committee is not familiar with off-campus waste protocols. On the first page of the BARF, the date of Biosafety training for all personnel should be listed. Email addresses from a Gmail account should not be listed on the form.

4.3 Wan, W.

Approved: In the usage summary, the researcher should clarify whether or not his waste needs to be autoclaved for one hour as this time may be too long. It may be the standard autoclaving cycle used in Engineering. In Section 1.1, he does not need to describe the risk of escape since he is not using any organisms that require a CFIA permit. In Table 1.2 *Acetobacter xlinum* should be *Acetobacter xylinus* as in the MSDS.

4.4 Luke, P.

Approved: The research summary and usage description are reversed. On page three the abbreviations, TEC and EMT, are not defined. The researcher should include the MSDS for the Carbon Monoxide and Carbon Dioxide Releasing Molecules (CORM). Section 8.2 should say “Yes” as the researcher will be using live animals.

4.5 Garcia, B.

Tabled: Clarification is needed in the usage description as to whether or not the researcher will be receiving frozen/fixed tissues.

4.6 King, G.

Tabled: Should the unpreserved tissue be treated as Level 2? Despite the recommendation from the Safety Officer at St. Joseph’s Health Care (that the lab should be treated as Level 1), the Committee believes that this lab should be treated as Level 2. The researcher filled out Section 15.2 regarding needlestick injuries even though he should have no need to use needles. The committee requires clarification as to whether or not the researcher will be using needles.

4.7 Urquhart, B.

Approved: In Table 2.3, HeLa should be Level 2. In Section 2.4, Level 2 should be checked instead of Level 1. In Section 14.3, it should read “UWO” instead of “UW)”. For Section 15.2, the injured person should first be taken to Workplace Health if an injury occurs during work hours.

4.8 Gloor, G.

Approved: In the usage description, the small amounts of liquid waste should be bleached. Section 3.0 should be checked as “No”.

4.9 Reider, M., McCormick, J., Bend, J. (Modification)

Tabled: The correct MSDS needs to be provided for *Campylobacter jejuni*. The project needs to be under the supervision of a microbiologist, such as Dr. McCormick.

5. Rupar Project: Level 2+ or Level 2 (J. Stanley, J. Millar)

The Committee approves that Dr. Rupar’s project be moved from a Level 2+ facility to a Level 2 facility.

6. Committee Website Move to Sakai (J. Stanley)

The Human Resources Webmaster will be moving the Committee website to Sakai. Occupational Health and Safety will now be responsible for managing the website. J. Stanley has asked the Webmaster to provide the Committee with a demonstration.

7. New Draft: Biosafety Guidelines (J. Stanley)

The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) will be amalgamating their standards into a single 200-page document. The draft of this document is on the web and there will be a comment period until December 21st, 2012.

8. Level 3 Shut-down (J. Stanley)

The Level 3 Shut-down is scheduled for December 14th, 2012.

9. Animal SOPs to ACVS (T. deLangley)

The AUSPAM (AUS Post Approval Monitoring) office would like to post all animal SOPs on the Animal Use Subcommittee website so that animal users can access them there.

If there is an SOP that the AUSPAM Office would like, ACVS can send a request to J. Stanley and she will forward them to the AUSPAM Office for posting. J. Stanley will try to send all animal SOP’s to the AUSPAM Office once they are approved by the

Biohazards Subcommittee and Biosafety Committee. If ACVS is at a meeting and wants an SOP that is approved, they can also request that it be sent to the AUSPAM Office.

For the next year the Committee will try this approach and re-visit it then if necessary.

All animal SOPs can be posted on the internet except for the NHP (Non-human Primate) SOPs as they are considered a sensitive species.

10. Sheep Unit (T. deLangley, J. Stanley)

10.1 Re-certification

It is not clear who oversees this unit. PHAC may oversee it since *C. burnetii* is a human pathogen. CFIA may oversee is since it is an animal facility. Thus a copy of the re-certification report will also be submitted to the CFIA as the CFIA may have a quicker turnaround time. The sheep are coming in January 2013 so the unit will need to re-open soon.

This unit was certified in the past. Dr. deLangley mentioned that Melissa Pickering has the letter for the previous certification and so he will ask her to forward it to J. Stanley for her files.

10.2 Disinfectant

ACVS has been unable to get Virobac in Canada. ACVS is still trying to get Virobac but will likely need to use another disinfectant in the sheep unit.

PHAC is neglecting to provide any definitive approval for the use of Envirochem instead of Virobac as the disinfectant for the Sheep Unit. They have suggested that this decision is the responsibility of the institution rather than that of PHAC.

11. Next meeting date: December 14th? (J. Stanley)

J. Stanley proposed that the December committee meeting be moved to the 7th as she will not be available on December 14th. Dr. Millar will not be available on the 7th so the suggestion was made that the meeting be moved to Monday December 17th. Drs. Millar, Koval and R. Noseworthy will be available on the 17th. Dr. Siu will not be available. The other Committee members will follow up with their availability.

12. Other Business (J. Millar)

12.1 Clarification for Dr. Dekaban (R. Noseworthy)

Dr. Dekaban just wants to clarify that when non-infectious Level 2 cells are injected into mice, the mice become Level 1. J. Stanley will follow up with Dr. Dekaban.

13. Adjournment (J. Millar)

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 am.