



The University of Western Ontario
Biohazards Subcommittee Meeting

Minutes of February 10th, 2012
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., SSB 5150

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

Regrets: Dr. S. Barr, Dr. I. Welch

1.0 Introductions

The Committee members introduced themselves to Dr. Jacinda Flood.

2.0 Approval of Minutes – January 13th, 2012

Motioned: Dr. G. Dekaban

Seconded: Dr. S. Siu

3.0 Biological Agents Registry Forms

3.1 Mann, M.

Tabled: Personnel must provide a UWO e-mail address (re: Zhang). In Section 1.2 it should say *E. coli* DH5 α instead of *E. coli* nonpathogenic. Bacteria are stored as “glycerol stocks” rather than glycogen. Section 7.5 should say ‘no’. Section 9.5 asks for the amount of toxin or hormone stored, not the concentration.

3.2 McCormick, J. (Modification)

Approved: Nur Rehman needs to be removed from the list of personnel.

3.3 Gunaratnam, L. (Modification)

Approved: No issues.

3.4 Rugar, C. (Modification)

Approved: No issues.

3.5 Dick, F. (Modification)

Approved: No issues.

3.6 Valvano, M. (Modification)

Tabled: The description of the cell biology experiment is too brief.

3.7 Sener, A. (Modification)

Approved: Everyone in the lab must be vaccinated against Hepatitis B or the researcher must provide additional information that the cell line does not produce infectious material. Personnel must be vaccinated (or provide proof of vaccination) to Workplace Health.

3.8 Zhang, Z. X. (Revisit, December 2011)

Tabled: The form has not been corrected from the last time the Committee reviewed it. In Section 4.3 no virus vector is being constructed, so the answer should be 'no'. The description of the project is insufficient for the Committee to understand the work that will be done. In Section 5 SV40 large antigen should be marked 'yes'. If no virus is being produced then Section 1.2 is incorrect since the researcher would be using a plasmid containing replication defective SV40 genome and that should be marked as Level 2.

3.9 Guglielmo, C. (Revisit, January 2012)

Approved: *Staphylococcus aureus* is a human and animal pathogen.

3.10 Southam, G.

Tabled: The form needs a research summary. *Shewanella* is used but not listed in Section 1.2.

3.11 Dixon, J. (Revisit, March 2011)

Approved: Section 4.6 should be 'yes'. In Section 4.2 and 4.3 the part that says "Cells are appropriately destroyed after each experiment" is not necessary.

3.12 Chambers, A. and Tuck, A.

Approved: The use of E1A oncogene should be marked 'yes' in Section 5.0. In Tables 1.2 and 4.2 the scientific name of *E. coli* should be noted. Blood and plasma in Table 3.2 is Level 2.

3.13 Karmazyn, M. (Modification)

Approved: Section 4 to 4.3 and Section 5 have been completed and contain the information required.

3.14 Strong, M. (Modification)

Approved: The plasmid pDEST 14, which was approved in the previous meeting, should be listed in the approved genetic modification box.

3.15 Brown, A. (Modification)

Approved: No issues.

3.16 Foster, P. (Revisit, December 2011)

Approved: No issues.

3.17 Min, W.

Tabled: In Section 5 the form should say 'yes' for E1A to reflect the use of HEK 293. Section 4.2 should list the consequences of the plasmid being transfected to the cells, not the consequences to the bacteria. TNF alpha is not being transduced. Section 4.3.2 should say 'yes'. Section 15.2 should refer LHSC employees to the LHSC.

3.18 Ferguson, P. (Revisit, January 2012)

Approved: No issues. All the required information has now been provided.

3.19 Fenster, A.

Approved: The form describes a new project and it is not a revisit. No issues.

3.20 McKenzie, C.

Approved: No issues.

3.21 Mottola, M.

Tabled: The date of biosafety training must be provided for Maggie Sopper. Clarification on the use of a biological safety cabinet is required. All personnel handling blood should be vaccinated.

3.22 Perinpanayagam, H.

Tabled: The form does not indicate what will be done with the plates once the cells have been grown.

3.23 Kim, S. O.

(Revisit, November 2011)

Tabled: The form is the same as the one submitted in November. No corrections have been made.

Last Minute Additions

3.16 Others?

None.

4. Letter for Dr. Mehta

(J. Millar, J. Stanley)

The letter addressing the lack of a biological safety cabinet in Dr. Mehta's laboratory has been sent to the researcher.

5. ACVS Hazard Information Sheets

(ACVS Representative)

Safety sheets for animal care staff have been developed. The facility name in the Tamoxifen documents should be changed to avoid confusion with containment levels. It should be called "Animal Housing Condition 2". In the case of immediate exposure to the agent the worker should "see MSDS and go to Workplace Health" where they should document the symptoms they are experiencing. If the exposure happens after hours they should go to the University Hospital Emergency Room. The forms should say that the workers should use "gloves appropriate for the chemicals being handled" and "approved safety glasses". The Level 1 information sheet should not say "double gloves" and for the Level 2 information sheet the concentration of bleach should be 10 percent and double gloves must be specified.

6. Guidelines for Estrogen Inhibitors

(J. Millar)

The changes that were suggested in the previous meeting were made to the document.

7. Modification Form Procedure

(J. Stanley)

The contact info for the off-site Biosafety officers was added to the document outlining the modification form procedure.

8. Biosafety Notification for H5N1 Viruses (J. Stanley)

An advisory has been sent out by PHAC regarding the successful construction of the H5N1 virus in the United States where technology commonly used in laboratories has been applied to something that may pose a threat. This development has been viewed as having the potential to be used for bioterrorism.

9. Biosafety Form Review Process (J. Millar)

During the meeting several changes to the review process were proposed:

- The Committee will have a deadline for form submissions. The Committee meets on the first or second Friday of the month. All forms must be received by the end of the previous month before the meeting.
- For off-campus submissions, the Committee suggests appointing a scientist such as Dr. Joe Mymryk to inspect the forms for proper and satisfactory completion before they are forwarded to the Western Biosafety office. Robarts already has this process in place and it has proved very effective in achieving a quick turnaround in terms of form approvals.
- It is the researcher's responsibility to keep the form up to date and the Biosafety office already sends out reminders a few months before the forms expire.
- The PIs need to review and complete the forms themselves, rather than having a technician or lab manager do so.
- To make the process more efficient, the Committee will try to have some of the revisits reviewed and approved by a member of the Committee working in the field closest to that of the researcher. If this new process is to be implemented, the researcher must highlight on the form all the corrections that have been made to the form.
- Modifications with minor additions are already approved in-office between Committee meetings.
- For the researchers who have had difficulties filling out the forms, it may be beneficial to them to attend Biosafety for Faculty, a course that Western offers that deals with understanding the information that is pertinent for Researchers.
- The form itself has been reviewed and updated several times.

9.1 Lawson Health Research Institute Letter

Dr. J. Koropatnick sent a letter to the Biohazards Subcommittee on behalf of several researchers from London Regional Cancer Program outlining their frustration with the form review process. The Committee discussed the letter and suggested some possible improvements to the process.

10. Next meeting date: March 16th? (J. Stanley)

The next meeting will be held on March 16th.

11. Other Business (J. Millar)

None.

12. Adjournment (J. Millar)

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 am.