The University of Western Ontario
Biohazards Subcommittee Meeting

Minutes of December 17th, 2012
10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., SSB 4220

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

Regrets: Dr. S. Siu

1. Introductions

None needed.

2. Approval of Minutes – November 16th, 2012

Section 9.0 is to be corrected so that the words “wants the” are removed. “AUSPAM” and “NHP” will be defined. Section 10.1 is to be corrected to read “January 2013” instead of “January 2012”.

Motioned: Dr. S. Barr Seconded: Dr. S. Koval

3. Office Approvals

There were seven office approvals.

4. Biological Agents Registry Forms

4.1 Lachance, M.

Approved: The information stated in the research summary should be added to the usage description and a research summary should be provided. In Section 5.0, the question regarding HTLV should be check as “No”.

4.2 Karagiannis, J.

Approved: In Section 5.0, the question regarding HTLV should be check as “No”.

4.3 Leong, H. S. (Revisit October 2012)

Tabled: The information stated in the research summary should be included in the usage description and a research summary needs to be provided. Is he really using 100% bleach as stated in the research summary? 10% bleach is more appropriate.

4.4 Shaw. G

Approved: In Table 1.2, the researcher needs to include the name of the bacteria, *E. coli,* not just the strains. The maximum quantity of *E. coli* to be cultured is acceptable since he is using the bacteria for protein expression. More detail should be provided in Section 15.2.

4.5 Haniford, D.

Approved: In Table 1.2, *Salmonella typhimurium* should be Level 2.

4.6 Yang, J. (Modification)

Tabled: The names of the organisms in the table should be written in full. The researcher needs to include a description as to how each strain will be used and how they will be cultured. The description provided is written in past tense. It should be written in the future tense. A Standard Operating Procedure, including centrifugation and decontamination methods should also be provided. The correct MSDS for *Aspergillus niger* should be attached to the modification. How much of each organism will be used?

4.7 Shilton, B.

Approved: The information stated in the research summary should be included in the usage description and a research summary needs to be provided. Section 6.1 should be checked as “No”. Section 15.2 does not state standard procedure as listed in the Biosafety Manual. The course name should be removed from the first page as it is not relevant to the form.

4.8 Luyt, L. (CIHR)

Approved: Section 3.1 should be checked as “Yes”. In Table 3.2, the researcher needs to state what blood fraction he is using.

4.9 Foster, P. (Modification)

Approved: This work can be done with Level 1 containment. However, the work will be completed in a Robarts facility that is being converted from Level 1 to Level 2

4.10 Bhattacharya, M. (Modification)

Approved: No issues.

4.11 DiMattia, G. (Modification)

Approved: This protocol can be approved. If virus is being made however, a Biosafety Modification is required.

4.12 Pin, C. (Revisit June 2012)

Approved: No issues.

4.13 Pin, C. (LRTGTF) (Revisit June 2012)

Approved: In Section 9.6, caerulein should not be listed. This is approved. However, if viral vectors are used in the future, a Biosafety Modification is required.

4.14 Luyt, L. (CBCF)

Tabled: In Table 1.2, all the pathogen/zoonotic agent questions should be answered as "No". For Table 2.2, the researcher needs to specify how he will be transforming the fibroblasts. In Table 2.3, all the cell lines should be Level 1 not Level 2.

4.15 Luyt, L. (NSERC)

Tabled: Only "@uwo.ca" email addresses should be provided for university personnel. Is Andre St. Amant still working at the University? Will the viral nanoparticles be made using recombinant methods or are they obtained from the live virus? If they are being obtained from the live virus, the researcher needs to provide information from Agriculture Canada regarding import permits. In Table 1.2, weights are listed for the organisms (i.e. 10 mg) instead of volumes. For Table 2.3, an appendix with the relevant cell lines needs to be attached to the form.

4.16 Zheng, X. (Revisit December 2011)

Tabled: Cationic Antimicrobial Peptides (AMPs) should be listed under section 9.0 along with all their pertinent information (i.e. LD_{50}, usage amount, storage amount). An MSDS should be provided for the AMPs if they are commercially available. Section 15.2 needs to be more detailed.

5. Level 3 Recertification (J. Stanley, J. Millar)

The Level 3 facility was decontaminated on Friday, December 14, 2012. It will be inspected on Tuesday, December 18, 2012.

5.1 Equipment

The ultracentrifuge has stopped working and will need to be repaired, if not replaced. The other centrifuges in Level 3 as well as the blue freezer are also very old and need replacing. Schulich has sent an e-mail to the Level 3 researchers requesting information on current and future Level 3 equipment needs.

5.1.1 Level 3 BCU (Biosafety Containment Unit)

Dr. Welch asked the Committee if the BCU in Level 3, which has never been used or moved, needs to be recertified before it can be used for Level 2 or 3 work. The last time it was certified was in December 2011 and will most likely not be used until July 2013, at the earliest. If an incident were to occur while the BCU is being used and it is revealed that it had not been recertified, this could create legal problems. As a result, two options were provide as to how the BCU could be recertified. The first option is to recertify it while it is in Level 3 without decontaminating it, since it has not been used and no work has been done in the room in which the BCU is housed. The second option is to treat it with formaldehyde, remove it from Level 3 and then recertify it once it is outside of the facility. ACVS will discuss this with the Haeryfar group as the BCU belongs to them.

6. Use of Rodent and Human Cells in Animals (G. Dekaban)

This document was created to eliminate the confusion surrounding containment levels required when cell lines are injected into animals. These guidelines only apply if the animals injected with Level 2 cells are not being opened up, in which case Level 2 containment is required for these procedures. Some changes that were made to the diagrams include: removing the “commercially sourced” qualifier; adding more detail to specify that the cells need to have been modified with infectious agent(s) or other hazardous substances; and including links to the Imaging and the Tamoxifen documents in addition to the Viral Vector Policy. Once these modifications are made, the document will be brought back to the Committee for review. In particular, Dr. Siu’s input is required on the changes as it pertains to animal bites and scratches.

7. Kerfoot Pertussis Project in West Valley Unit (ACVS Representative)

Dr. Kerfoot, Dr. Welch and J. Stanley worked with the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) on the Pertussis Level 2 project. PHAC has approved the work to be done in the West Valley Building as long as extra control measures are put in place. For example, the injections are done in the fumehood and the mice are kept in the rack for 48 hrs in cages that are identified/labeled.

8. Biological Agents Registry Form Update (J. Stanley)

Modifications that were made to the form include:

- Adding the new logo
- Reformatting the heading
- Changing “UWO” to “Western” in the personnel list and specifying that the email addresses need to be “@uwo.ca” email addresses
- Reformatting Section 5.0
- Rewording Section 8.5 and 8.7
- Moving the question regarding CFIA permits from Section 1.1 to page 2

9. Sheep Unit Disinfectant (J. Stanley)

PHAC has provided a list of approved disinfectants that may be used in the Sheep Unit.

9.1 Sheep Unit SOP: Modification to SF-03

Changes were made to the approval dates and the approval committee. The list of approved disinfectants from PHAC was added to Section 5.2. The Committee would like to include information relating to the need for a respirator if bleach is being used.

10. Update on MPTP (1-methyl-4-phenyl-1,2,3,6-tetrahydropyridine) (ACVS Representative)

MPTP is a chemical that is used to create a Parkinson's model in animals. It is not considered a biohazard but poses a risk to handlers. Dr. Siu has determined that the doses to be used in this project are above the safe limits and so a draft Post-exposure Protocol has been created. At Western, all research personnel should be required to receive counseling from Workplace Health and safety training before they begin working with MPTP. If there is an exposure, the worker is to go to Workplace Health to be treated with Selegiline. The researcher has ensured that there will be no after-hours or weekend use of MPTP so University Hospital does not need to be involved. Since the metabolites of the chemical are shed in urine, an Animal Care Policy is also being developed.

An additional point made by the committee is that the injections need to be completed in a fumehood or a vented biological safety cabinet. Since the lab is open to other areas, all other personnel working in the room need to receive training even if they are not working directly with MPTP.

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

Drs. Koval and Dekaban are available on the 11th. If there are only a few new forms and no other issues arise, the meeting may be postponed.

12. Other Business (J. Millar)

12.1 Bleaching SOP

Dr. de Langley suggested that an SOP relating to bleaching information be created. It should contain information relating to contact time (30 minutes), the age of the bleach, etc.

13. Adjournment (J. Millar)

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 am.