

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

Minutes of July, 17, 2009
10:00 – 11:30 am, SSB 5191

Present: Dr. D. Newton (Chair in Dr. Kidder's absence), Dr. S. Siu, Dr.S. Barr, Dr. G. Dekaban, Dr. T. deLangley, J. Stanley, F. Lee (OHS Intern)

Regrets: Dr. G. Kidder

1.0 Introductions

Dr. Newton introduced himself to the Biohazards Subcommittee. He was chairing the meeting in Dr. Kidder's absence.

2.0 Approval of Minutes of June 26, 2009

Motion: Dr. S. Siu Dr. S. Barr

Approved: No changes.

3.0 Biohazardous Agents Registry Forms

3.1 Dr. N. Berube

Motion: Dr. S. Siu Dr. T. deLangley

Approved: No issues.

3.2 Dr. S. Cregan

Motion: Dr. S. Siu Dr. T. deLangley

Approved: No animal work is approved, in vitro only.

3.3 Dr. P. Foster

Motion: Dr. S. Barr Dr. G. DeKaban

Approved: Work can be done at level 1 since no bio-transduction is involved. Policy regarding this may be required (Dr. Dekaban's suggestion).

3.4 Dr. M. Reider

Motion: Dr. S. Siu Dr. G. DeKaban

Approved: No issues, personnel list is out of date and should be updated.

3.5 Dr. S. Meakin (Modification only, Revisit)

Motion: Dr. T. deLangley Dr. S. Siu

Approved: The committee had no issues with the lines. Committee is uncertain if a gene (ras, sh2) has any transformation potential. If the gene is in the form of plasmid, there is no concern. However, if a viral vector is involved, then the committee requires further clarification.

3.6 Dr. E. Lui (2) (Revisit)

Motion: Dr. T. deLangley Dr. S. Barr

Biotron, Approved: Level 2 required.

MSB, Approved: Level 2 required.

3.7 Dr. J. Karagianis (Modification Only, Revisit)

Motion: Dr. G. Dekaban Dr. S. Siu

Approved: Approved since no virus is being produced. If virus is being produced, an additional risk assessment will need to be re-done.

3.8 Dr. J. Rylett (Revisit)

Motion: Dr. S. Siu Dr. G. Dekaban

Approved: Section 4.3 must be completed properly.

3.9 Dr. Khan

Motion: Dr. S. Barr Dr. S. Siu

Approved: Level 2 is sufficient based on letter dated July 16, 2009 to the committee. Level 2 plus not required as long as there is no virus production. If virus is produced, the risk assessment will need to be redone.

4.0 Level 3 Access Form:

Changes to the form were discussed, a few proposed recommendations:

1. Add a question regarding access during after-hours
2. Add a position regarding Michael Mics
3. Background information waiver form must be modified to reflect level 3

Committee may require a definition of a visitor. The possible definition should be consistent with sheep containment and primate units' visitor policy. J. Stanley will gather further information regarding the definition of a visitor.

5.0 Estrogen Inhibitor Procedure (Revisit)

The committee discussed the concern regarding the use of biological safety cabinet or fumehood for this procedure; Dr. S. Siu informed the committee that this would be overkill for protection from the drug. A fumehood is required to handle/use the drugs in powder form (not required for liquid form). Wherever possible, safe needles should be used.

6.0 Other Business

6.1 NIH Guideline and Procedures

The NIH Guideline for Research Involving Recombinant DNA Molecules was briefly discussed, we are not sure if this applies to Western researchers. A new committee member (a community representative) may be required.

There were some suggestions for a community representative: Heart and Stroke Foundation, Animal Use Subcommittee members, retired community members (teacher, physician, nurses).

6.2 The Human Pathogens & Toxins Act

The committee discussed the prepared bulletin. The committee recommends discussing the impact of this act in departmental meetings if requested.

6.3 BARF Modification Proposal

The Biohazardous Agents Registry Form (Section 6) will be modified slightly. Up to 3 questions will be added.

6.4 Committee Make-Up

Dr. S. Koval has accepted the committee member position.

6.5 Human Cell Lines and Immunocompromised rodents

The Committee discussed that many human cell lines can be used in immunocompromised rodents at Level 1 or or 2 (depending on the circumstances). Dr. Dekaban will create a policy on this and bring it to the committee's attention.

7.0 Adjournment

Motion: Dr. S. Barr Dr. G. Dekaban

Our next scheduled meeting is August 28, 2009. Dr. S. Siu will be there. Drs. Dekaban and Barr cannot attend.