

**2007 ANNUAL REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE UNIVERSITY  
BIOSAFETY COMMITTEE**

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**For the University Safety Committee, 2007**

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**Introduction**

The Committee met three times in 2006 (February, June and October) to discuss biosafety issues. The Committee is required to meet three times annually. The terms of reference were reviewed for the Biosafety Committee and Biohazard Subcommittee to better address the Biotron and to make the Director, Staff/Faculty Health Services a voting member.

**Biotron**

Over the course of the year, the Committee received updates on the progress of the construction of the new Biotron building. Most of the Biotron is expected to open by the spring of 2008, the Biomes will be operational sometime in 2009.

**Workwell Audit**

The Committee was updated on the progress of the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board Workwell Audit. The audit was completed in 2007 and all of the recommendations were addressed.

**Level 3 Biosafety Unit**

The Committee addressed issues relating to the February 2007 re-opening of the Level 3 unit.

**Tri-Council Schedule 13**

Changes suggested by the Committee were taken by the Council of Ontario Universities to the Government. These changes will ensure that the new Schedule 13 will be less cumbersome to administer by university biosafety committees.

## **Research Involving Pregnant Sheep at UWO**

Five updated Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's) were reviewed and approved by the Biosafety Committee before the re-opening of the West Valley Sheep Unit in February, 2007.

## **Research Involving Non-Human Primates at UWO**

The Standard Operating Procedures for the Non-Human Primate Unit were reviewed by the Committee prior to the unit relocating to the West Valley Building.

## **Microbial Toxins**

"Draft Guidelines for Laboratories Working with Microbial Toxins" was discussed by the Committee. Comments were sent to Health Canada on behalf of the University research community.

## **Biosafety Program**

Several graphs were discussed by the Committee, including the Researchers Starting to Work with Biohazards, Biohazardous Agents Registry Forms by Year and Institution, Purchase Orders and Material Transfer Agreements, and Containment Level 2 Laboratories.

## **Biohazard Sub-committee & Biohazardous Agents Registry Form**

The Biohazard Sub-committee met eleven times in 2007. The Sub-committee reviewed over 100 research projects. In 2007, thirty-seven containment level 1, sixty containment level 2, three level 2 (plus Level 3 operations) and no containment level 3 Biohazardous Agents Registry Forms were reviewed and approved by the Biohazard Subcommittee. Projects of interest include those involving Emerald Ash Borer and lentiviral vectors. The Biohazardous Agents Registry Form was updated to clarify details of biohazard use by researchers and streamline the review process.

Four Level 3 workers were approved, pending security clearances and training. The Subcommittee also discussed the impact of the draft New Substances Notification regulation.

The Subcommittee approved two medical surveillance policies - "Policy for Researchers using Vaccinia Virus" and "Policy and Procedure for Persons Working with Lentivirus".