



**The University of Western Ontario  
University Biosafety Committee Meeting**

**Minutes of October 23, 2012**

**10:00 am – Noon, Support Services Building Room 4220**

**Present:** Dr. J. Millar (Chair), Dr. T. deLangley, Dr. T. Dzialoszynski, Dr. P. Ferguson, Dr. A. Margaritis, Dr. C. Pin, Dr. S. Siu, Dr. G. Thorn, J. Horne, R. Noseworthy, J. O'Brien, C. Pape (arrived late), J. Stanley, S. Seaton (OHS Intern), K. Welling (Safety Analyst, LHSC), J. Whitty

**Regrets:** Dr. S. Barr, Dr. S. Damjanovski, Dr. G. Dekaban, Dr. E. Ostrakhovitch, Dr. I. Welch, T. Hammoud, M. Mics, A. Scott, J. Tucker

**1. Introductions & Agenda**

**(J. Millar)**

The Committee introduced themselves to Katie Welling. The agenda was approved with no additions.

**2. Approval of Minutes, June 26, 2012**

**(VOTE)**

**(J. Millar)**

**Motion:** Dr. A. Margaritis

**Seconded:** Dr. G. Thorn

**Approved:** Minutes approved as presented.

**3. Business Arising**

**(J. Millar)**

**3.1 Level 3 Emergency Medical Follow-Up**

**(S. Siu)**

Workplace Health is working on the emergency follow-up procedures. A signature is now needed for the letter that Level 3 workers will take to the University Hospital emergency room.

**4. New Business**

**4.1 Biosecurity Plan**

**(VOTE)**

**(J. Stanley)**

This document recently underwent updates which mostly involved changes to the University's name. An issue was brought to the attention of the committee surrounding the definition of "toxins" used in the document. Since the Biosecurity Plan only defines toxins as harmful substances that "originate from biological systems" the question was raised as to whether or not toxins of chemical origin should be included in the definition. It was stated that chemical toxins would be covered under the Controlled Goods policy which is enforced by Health and Safety and Campus Police.

According to the Public Health Agency of Canada, the Biosecurity Plan should be reviewed regularly.

**Motion:** Dr. G. Thorn

**Seconded:** Dr. C. Pin

## **4.2 Biosafety Program Update**

**(J. Stanley)**

### **4.2.1 Number of Biohazard Forms Reviewed**

This graph shows the trends relating to the number of Biological Agents Registry Forms (BARFs) that are approved by the Biohazards Subcommittee per year. The graph shows a cyclical trend with the cycle repeating approximately every three years. It is estimated that the number of BARFs for 2012 will reach 150 by the end of December. The information for UWO contains that of Robarts as well. The Information for LHRI also contains that of CPRI.

The committee would like to have information relating to accidents involving biohazards. J. Stanley mentioned that the most frequent accidents for Western are animal bites and scratches.

## **5. Other Business**

**(J. Millar)**

### **5.1 Research involving Nanoparticles**

**(A. Margaritis)**

Currently the Nanotechnology program falls under the Lab Safety program. Similar to biosafety, any researcher wishing to work with nanoparticles must fill out a Registry Form. All the nanoparticles presently being used on campus are chemical in nature. If a researcher intends to begin working with biological nanoparticles their work will then be brought to the Biohazards Subcommittee.

Both Drs. Siu and Margaritis have offered to assist Occupational Health and Safety with its Nanotechnology program. The contact person is Anne Marie McCusker.

### **5.2 Updates From ACVS**

**(T. deLangley)**

The Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC) has completed their accreditation inspection of Animal Care and Veterinary Services (ACVS). They would like to see that the University and the Hospitals have more standardized procedures. Another concern of the CCAC representatives was about human exposure to animal allergens. The requirements regarding allergy prevention (i.e. respirators and draft tables) differs across the city and is not consistent.

The Sheep Unit certification is still pending and requires information Facilities Management. The sheep are scheduled to arrive in January 2013.

### **5.3 Hantavirus Testing of Mice**

**(T. deLangley)**

The Committee discussed the risk of Hanta Virus in mice. Dr. deLangley indicated that commercial mice are tested prior to arrival at Western. Periodically wild mice are trapped and tested. The results have always been negative.

**6. Next meeting: To be determined (February 2013)**

The next meeting will be held in February 2013.

**7. Adjournment**

**Motioned:** Dr. P. Ferguson

**Seconded:** Dr. A. Margaritis