



## **2010 ANNUAL REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE UNIVERSITY BIOSAFETY COMMITTEE**

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### **For the University Health and Safety Committee**

**Dr. G.M. Kidder, Associate Vice President (Research), Chair (January 1 – June 30, 2010)**

**Dr. Jack Millar, Special Advisor, Chair (July 1 – December 31, 2010)**

**Jennifer Stanley, Biosafety Coordinator**

### **Introduction**

The Committee met three times in 2010 (February, June and October) to discuss biosafety issues. The Committee is required to meet three times annually. The membership of this Committee was modified.

### **Level 3 Containment Facility (Biotron)**

The Committee oversaw the progress of the Level 3 Certification. The Level 3 facility in the Biotron was certified by the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) on June 30, 2010.

### **Level 3 Containment Facility (Dental Sciences Building)**

The Level 3 facility was decontaminated and closed for maintenance from March 17 – May 14, 2010. The unit needed a new biological safety cabinet, however there was no one using the animal room at this time.

The Supervisory Requirements for this facility were reviewed and modified. Three new people were granted access by the Biohazards Subcommittee in 2010.

### **Medical Surveillance**

The Biohazards Subcommittee discussed the University's Tuberculosis testing policy and Vaccinia medical surveillance requirements.

### **Biosafety Manual Updates**

Modifications to the Biosafety Manual for Containment Levels 1 and 2 were reviewed and approved by the Committee.

## **Biosafety Program Updates**

Several graphs were discussed by the Committee, such as graphs on training.

## **Biohazards Subcommittee and Biohazardous Agents Registry Forms**

The Biohazards Subcommittee met 13 times in 2010. This includes one special meeting to discuss the Vaccinia project. The Committee reviewed and approved 145 Biohazardous Agents Registry Forms (or modifications) in 2010.

The Biohazardous Agents Registry Form was updated to better assess risk of projects involving biohazards.

## **Standard Operating Procedure for the Use of Biological Agents with Live Animals**

The Biosafety Committee reviewed and approved the sections of this document as it pertains to biohazards and live animal use.

## **Guideline on Viral Vector Transduced Cells**

The Biohazards Subcommittee and Biosafety Committee modified this guideline to address the growing use of viral vectors by researchers on and off campus.

## **Biosecurity**

The Biosecurity Subcommittee was dissolved in February 2010 as its function can be covered by the Biosafety Committee and the Biohazards Subcommittee. The Biosafety Committee reviewed and approved the University Biosecurity Plan in June 2010.

## **New Government Standards**

The Committee reviewed two standards to evaluate their impact on the Western Research Community. The two standards were: The Containment Standards for Facilities Handling Plant Pests and the Containment Standards for Facilities Handling Aquatic Animal Pathogens.

## **Biological Safety Cabinets**

Changes to the procedure on the use of biological safety cabinets were made based on information from the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC).

## **Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC) Report**

The Committee reviewed the CCAC audit report as it pertained to the Biosafety program.

## **Tri-Council Audit**

The University Biosafety Program will be audited by the Tri-Council February, 2011.