



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

Minutes of October 19, 2010

10:00 am – 12:00 pm, Robarts Research Institute, Room 2201

Present: Dr. J. Millar (Chair), Dr. S. Barr, Dr. G. Dekaban, Dr. A. Margaritis, Dr. T. deLangley, Dr. T. Dzialoszynski, C. Pape, Rene Figueredo (for Dr. Peter Ferguson), Ron Noseworthy, Jane O'Brien, J. Stanley, E. Gray (OH&S Intern), Dr. S. Koval (guest)

Regrets: Dr. S. Damjanovski, Dr. P. Ferguson, Dr. J. McNeil, Dr. C. Pin, Dr. G. Qubty, Dr. T. Rugar, Dr. G. Thorn, J. McLachlan, G. Ryder, J. Tucker, Dr. S. Siu, A. Scott, T. Hammoud

1.0 Introductions & Approval of Agenda (J. Millar)

Dr. Millar introduced himself as the Chair. The committee introduced themselves.

2.0 Approval of Minutes, June 22, 2010 (J. Millar)

Motion: Dr. Margaritis Dr. Dekaban

Approved: Minutes approved as presented.

3.0 Business Arising

3.1 Biotron Level 3 Update (J. Stanley)

The Biotron Level 3 was certified on June 30, 2010, by the Public Health Agency of Canada and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. This Level 3 facility is to be used primarily for plant pathogens.

3.2 Biohazards Subcommittee Update (J. Millar)

The Biohazards Subcommittee has met four times since the last Biosafety Committee meeting. About forty-five projects have been reviewed and approved by this Subcommittee in the last four months. Dr. Millar thanked Dr. Susan Koval for her work as the interim Chair of this Subcommittee from July to August 2010.

3.3 DSB Level 3 Update

(J. Stanley)

The Level 3 facility doesn't need to be recertified until August 2011 as it was recertified in August of 2010.

3.3.1 Level 3 Supervisory Requirements

(J. Millar, S. Barr)

The Biohazards Subcommittee approved new Supervisory Requirements in August 2010.

3.3.2 Level 3 Medical Surveillance

(S. Siu)

Tabled: There has been nothing from Workplace Health for review at this time.

4.0 New Business

4.1 CCAC Report

(T. deLangley, J. O'Brien)

Jane O'Brien presented the findings from the audit done by the Canadian Council for Animal Care (CCAC) in October, 2009. Overall the review was positive. Dr. deLangley and J. O'Brien will work together to address the recommendations made by the council.

4.2 Terms of Reference

(J. Millar)

There were two proposed changes to the Terms of Reference. One is to change the chair from A.V.P. Research to Special Advisor and the second change is to add a Biosecurity expert, such as Michael Mics, as a voting member to the Biosafety Committee.

Motion: Dr. Dekaban

Dr. Margaritis

Approved: All in favour.

4.3 Biosecurity Update

(J. Stanley)

J. Stanley spoke briefly about a Biosecurity incident that happened on September 5, 2010. She informed the committee that vials containing biohazardous material were stolen from a lab freezer on campus. This issue has been followed up with Campus Police and it has been reported under the Human Pathogens and Toxins Act.

4.4 Human Pathogens and Toxins Act

(J. Stanley)

J. Stanley updated the University's registration under the Human Pathogens and Toxins Act. The University's registration is reviewed annually and changes are sent every September.

4.5 Tricouncil Audit (February 2011)

(J. Stanley)

J. Stanley informed the Committee that the Biosafety program, including off-campus locations, will be subject to a Tri-council audit in February 2011. Under the Memorandum of Understanding we are required to follow the prescribed biosafety requirements so it is important to have records in place for February 2011.

4.6 Update on Biosafety Program

(J. Stanley)

J. Stanley presented two graphs; one showing Biosafety training attendees from 1999 - 2010 and one showing the number of Biological Agents Registry Form approvals.

The peak on the training graph can be described by the Workwell audit as well as the addition of records from Robarts.

The Biohazard Subcommittee has reviewed 107 projects so far. J. Stanley estimates this number will reach 150 by the end of the year.

4.7 Vaccinia Project

(J. Millar, T. deLangley)

There is a proposed in vitro and in vivo project involving Vaccinia Virus. Many items need to be in place, such as medical surveillance and waste procedures. To ensure that everything is in place prior to the project being started, there will be a special Biohazards Subcommittee meeting held within the next couple of weeks. A flow chart was drafted to outline the medical surveillance procedure. The availability of ACVS personnel trained to work in the project area may be limited. If new staff positions are to be made, the posting can specifically state that they will be working with Vaccinia Virus.

5.0 Other Business

(J. Millar)

None to report.

6.0 Next meeting

To be determined (February 2011).

7.0 Adjournment

Motion: Dr. deLangley

Dr. Barr

Meeting adjourned.