



Date: June 11, 2010

To the Biosafety Committee:

I am a new Assistant Professor in the department of Microbiology and Immunology and member of the Biohazards Sub-committee. I am seeking special consideration in lieu of section 4.2.4 of the Biosafety Level 3 Facility SOP. My research involves *in vitro* HIV (and similar retrovirus) work and use of the Level 3 facility. I currently supervise 3 graduate students and one technician who are all cleared for working in the Level 3. According to section 4.2.4 of the Level 3 SOP, "*Graduate students will not be allowed to work unaccompanied with live HIV or HTLV cultures, infected clinical specimens or infected animals in the Level 3 facility at any stage of their academic career. They must be closely supervised at all times by their supervising faculty member or an experienced technician or post-doctoral fellow.*" Currently my technician is not an expert with handling HIV and I do not have any post-docs. As such, this means that I would need to supervise all work in the Level 3. I am seeking special consideration in this matter because it is not practical for me to spend the 3-4 hours a day (sometimes more) that my students will need to be in the Level 3. All of my students have extensive experience in cell culture and one of my PhD students (which I trained/supervised in the Level 3 soon after arriving at UWO) has a good deal of experience working in the Level 3. I am continuing to train my technician for handling HIV and working in the Level 3 with the goal of eventually allowing her to supervise students in the Level 3. Until that date, I propose a temporary plan such that none of my graduate students will work alone in the Level 3 for safety considerations (ie. at least two students will be working together-one of which will be my PhD student). This special consideration was proposed to the Biohazards Sub-committee and agreed upon by the voting members (myself excluded). I would like to now propose this plan for approval from the Biosafety Committee. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Stephen Barr, PhD