



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

Minutes of June 26, 2012

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

Present: Dr. J. Millar (Chair), Dr. S. Barr, Dr. G. Dekaban, Dr. T. Dzialoszynski, Dr. P. Ferguson, Dr. A. Margaritis (arrived late), Dr. E. Ostrakhovitch, Dr. S. Siu, Dr. G. Thorn, J. Gibbings (Safety Coordinator, LHSC), J. Horne (Manager of Research Personnel, LHSC/Lawson), R. Noseworthy, Jane O'Brien, A. Scott, J. Stanley, S. Seaton (OHS Intern), G. Tsai (Dr. Siu's guest), J. Tucker

Regrets: Dr. S. Damjanovski, Dr. T. deLangley, Dr. C. Pin, Dr. I. Welch, T. Hammoud, M. Mics, C. Pape, J. Whitty

1. Introductions & Agenda

(J. Millar)

The Committee introduced themselves to Jamie Gibbings, Julie Horne, Shauntel Seaton and Gina Tsai.

The agenda was amended to include a new item - 3.2 Level 3 Emergency Medical Follow-up.

2. Approval of Minutes, March 1, 2012

(VOTE)

(J. Millar)

Motion: Dr. G. Thorn

Seconded: Dr. T. Dzialoszynski

Approved: Minutes approved as presented.

3. Business Arising

(J. Millar)

3.1 Biosafety Review Update

(J. Millar)

Two new processes have been introduced into the Biohazard Form review process. The first is that researchers must now have their proposals submitted by the last day of the month prior to the Biohazards Committee meeting. This eliminates last minute proposals and ensures that the Subcommittee has adequate time for the review process. The second process involves minor modifications. These proposals can be approved in-house without having to be resubmitted to the Committee. Since the last Biosafety Committee meeting, a significant number of proposals have been approved like this.

3.2 Level 3 Emergency Medical Follow-Up

(J. Millar, J. O'Brien)

In previous meetings, the Committee has discussed concerns surrounding Level 3 workers who may have an accidental exposure after-hours. Workers are to go to the University Hospital emergency department, but unfortunately they are unlikely to receive

priority treatment there. It has been decided that, if the incident occurs within work hours, Dr. Sui has written orders for Workplace Health to deal with the workers on-campus. For incidents that occur outside of work hours, a letter will be given to the workers from the Dean of The Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry. This letter is to be presented to Emergency staff indicating that Level 3 workers must be given priority treatment.

4. New Business

4.1 Sheep Unit: Procedure Guideline SF-03 (VOTE) (J. Stanley)

The Sheep Unit is proposing to use Envirochem as its disinfectant instead of Virobac. It is difficult to obtain Virobac in Canada and Envirochem is similar to Virobac and has been referenced in the MSDS for *Coxiella burnetii*. One correction was made to the SOP. It should read, "This standard is available at..." not "This standard if available at..."

Motion: Dr. G. Dekaban

Seconded: Dr. S. Siu

4.2 Biosafety Program Update (J. Stanley)

4.2.1 Manual (VOTE)

The Biosafety Guidelines and Procedures Manual has been updated with some of the following changes: links have been updated; references to "UWO" have been changed to "Western University"; typographical errors have been corrected; and some words have been capitalized.

Motion: Dr. P. Ferguson

Seconded: Dr. A. Margaritis

4.3 Viral Vector Policy (VOTE) (G. Dekaban, S. Barr)

There has been research done in regards to the development of ways to produce packaging signals that can be deleted. Investigators are being encouraged to develop these kinds of gamma retroviral and lentiviral vectors. This will provide an extra layer of safety and doesn't require any changes in terms of verification.

Motion: Dr. G. Dekaban

Seconded: Dr. S. Barr

5. Other Business (J. Millar)

None.

6. Next meeting: To be determined (October 2012)

The next meeting will be held in October 2012.

7. Adjournment

Motioned: Dr. T. Dzialoszynski

Seconded: Dr. G. Thorn