

MINUTES OF THE INSTITUTIONAL BIOSAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

September 19, 2012

3:00 PM, 410 Plant Biotechnology Building

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chunlei Su, Chair; Jun Lin, Vice-Chair; Seung Baek, David Bemis, Patti Coan, Doris D'Souza, Al Iannacone, Reggie Millwood, Jae Park

Ex-Officio – Brian Ranger

MEMBERS ABSENT: Tamara Chavez-Lindell, Paul Dalhaimer, Melissa Kennedy, Dan Kestler, Bonnie Ownley, Ling Zhao

OTHERS PRESENT: Jessica Woofter

Opening:

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Chunlei Su at 3:03 PM.

Minutes of August 15, 2012 were reviewed and approved pending minor corrections. There were two abstentions.

IBC Applications:

#296-12 (Zong-Ming “Max” Cheng) Recombinant DNA Registration, III-E-2-a, 3-year rewrite

Dr. Cheng's research involves assessing the effects of various commonly used plant promoter systems (both constitutive and inducible) on plant genes involved in nitrogen assimilation, cellulose production, and stress tolerance in order to optimize growth rates and increase biomass. Experiments will be performed using primarily *Populus* species (poplar trees) as hosts, but grapevine, switchgrass, and other hosts may also be used. The committee tabled this registration for the next IBC meeting pending typographical corrections and clarifications of genetic hosts and vectors listed throughout the registration.

#342-12 (Jon Wall) Recombinant DNA Registration, III-E, 3-year rewrite

Dr. Wall's research aims to select, isolate, and characterize phage peptides that mimic amyloid fibril epitopes and scFvs (single chain variable fragments) that bind to heparin sulfates. The generated recombinant forms of the proteins will be used to characterize their structure and biophysical properties and to examine their possible pathological properties for more effective methods of diagnosis and treatment of amyloidosis. The containment level was set at BSL-1. The committee approved this registration at BSL-1 pending administrative corrections.

#392 (Josh Bembenek) Recombinant DNA Registration, III-E, new registration

Dr. Bembenek's research involves the study of cell cycle genes (e.g. *sep-1*) and regulatory pathways that control genetic material and physical separation during cytokinesis. Dr. Bembenek will be using a well-established model, *Caenorhabditis elegans*, for his studies. Recombinant procedures will include RNAi introduction via *E. coli* “feeding” and biolistic transformation with fluorescent bioreporters (GFP fusions) to measure early gene expression. The committee approved the registration at BSL-1 pending further clarification of the technical summary and correction of minor typographical errors.

Old Business:

Administrative Report

Brian Ranger provided the committee with the administrative report. Following up on the August 15, 2012 IBC meeting, Dr. Deidra Mountain's registration (#390) was corrected administratively to include viral titers. Dr. Neal Stewart's registration (#391) was corrected administratively to include a title change and clarification that the ferns would be grown in growth chambers and not in Racheff Greenhouse as previously indicated. Dr. Neal Stewart's amendment to registration #379 was administratively approved on September 10, 2012. The amendment included the addition of several soybean cyst nematode genes as well as molecular transformations/containment as described in the original registration. Two registrations were administratively terminated (Dr. Jon Wall's #341 & Dr. Jill Narak's #366; studies no longer active).

1st Annual Safety Expo / Biosafety Brochure

Brian Ranger gave the committee a brief update about the 1st Annual Safety Expo held on the University of Tennessee campus on September 18, 2012. The committee was also notified of a Biosafety Program brochure designed for the expo by the Biosafety Office.

Search for Biosafety Specialist Update

Brian Ranger informed the IBC that the search committee has narrowed the candidate pool to four very qualified applicants and interviewing had begun for the Biosafety Specialist position.

IBC Registration Form User's Guide

Brian Ranger informed the committee that the new IBC registration form guide had been posted to the Biosafety website.

New Business:

New Vice Chancellor for Research

Brian Ranger notified the committee that a new Vice Chancellor to the Office of Research, Taylor Eighmy, will be joining the University of Tennessee effective October 2, 2012.

Annual Refresher Training for BSL-2/BBP

Brian Ranger notified the committee that the annual refresher courses for the Biosafety Level 2 and Bloodborne Pathogen training will be posted to Blackboard in early October.

The committee will reconvene October 17, 2012.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 PM.