

MINUTES OF THE INSTITUTIONAL BIOSAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

November 20, 2013

3:00 PM, 410 Plant Biotechnology Building

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chunlei Su, Chair; David Bemis, Seung Baek, Tamara Chavez-Lindell, Patti Coan, Paul Dalheimer, Doris D'Souza, Melissa Kennedy, Reggie Millwood, Bonnie Ownley, Jae Park, Ling Zhao

Ex-Officio –Brian Ranger, Jonathan Phipps

MEMBERS ABSENT: Al Iannacone, Dan Kestler, Jun Lin

OTHERS PRESENT: Dr. Jennifer Schweitzer, Jessica Woofter

Opening:

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Chunlei Su at 3:00 PM.

Minutes of October 16, 2013 were reviewed and approved as written.

IBC Applications:

#256-13 (Mei-Zhen Cui) Recombinant DNA and Human Derived Materials Registration, III-D-3-a, 3-year rewrite

Dr. Cui's ongoing research is focused on understanding the catalytic function of protein kinase D (PKD) and its involvement in vascular diseases (e.g. atherosclerosis and thrombosis) and cancer. Briefly, recombinant, wild type, and mutant genes for PKD will be transfected into various human cell lines. Cloning techniques include standard lipofectamine-based transfections (for pcDNA constructs) and the use of a commercially available, replication incompetent adenoviral vector system (Δ E1-E3; Transposase-AdTM Adenoviral Vector (Q-Biogene/MP Biomedicals)) for gene packaging and transfection. The containment level and safety precautions for work with adenovirus and human cells were established at BSL-2. The registration was approved as written pending administrative correction of minor typographical errors, clarification of insert genes to be used with each vector, and addition of adenoviral vector/packaging schematic diagram.

#413 (Jennifer Schweitzer) Infectious Agent Registration, New Registration

Dr. Jennifer Schweitzer's research covers the study of primate influence over seed germination and ecology. To assess this, feces from six non-human primate (NHP) species (chimpanzee, white-handed gibbon, baboon, gorilla, blue monkey, and Geoffroy's marmoset) will be collected and provided to Dr. Schweitzer's research group by the Knoxville Zoo. Fecal samples will then be mixed uniformly with potting soil, which is then incubated under standard growth conditions in a contained/secured growth chamber to allow seeds consumed in the NHP diet to germinate. Unconsumed seeds (i.e. not shed in NHP feces) would be planted as a control. Plants and associated biomass would then be measured to compare overall fitness. Biosafety requirements included: wearing PPE while handling and mixing feces/soil and performing watering procedures, collection and autoclave treatment of feces-contaminated soil and water leachate, and BSL-2/biohazard signage. The committee approved the registration provided that soil containing primate feces is segregated to growth chambers and that BSL-2 precautions are stringently followed.

Old Business:

Administrative Report

Brian Ranger provided the committee with the administrative report. Following up on the October 16, 2013 IBC meeting, Dr. Tim Sparer's amendment for his registration (#278-12) was administratively corrected to include a minor clarification that bleach solutions for disinfecting lentiviral-transfected cultures are freshly prepared. Dr. Xuemin Xu's registration (#309-13) was administratively corrected to indicate that HeLa cell source tissue is 'cervical adenocarcinoma'. Dr. Maitrey Das' registration (#412) was corrected by the Principal Investigator to include minor details regarding rDNA use in the nontechnical summary and to add students to the personnel list.

Biosafety Procedures Non-Compliance Review/Corrective Actions

Brian Ranger notified the committee that he had re-trained all of Dr. Rouse's personnel on proper safety/containment procedures while working in the Walters Life Sciences Lab Animal Facility, including a practical demonstration of proper biosafety cabinet use. Subsequent observation of procedures showed marked safety practice improvement during infectious agent challenges. Although a few minor concerns still existed, Brian indicated that the Biosafety Office would continue to work with Dr. Rouse's staff until all issues were resolved.

UT GSM-Sponsored Human Gene Transfer Protocols

Brian Ranger notified the committee that UT will not review human gene transfer registrations and the current contracted group will continue to review those registrations.

New Business:

UT CVM SACS Training

Brian Ranger notified the committee that he gave the Small Animal Clinical Sciences Department at the Veterinary Teaching Hospital (VTH) training on the Biosafety Office's roles/responsibilities relative to the VTH clinics. The training also covered basic biological safety and infection control practices.

The next meeting has been tentatively scheduled for December 18, 2013.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:32 PM.