

# MINUTES OF THE INSTITUTIONAL BIOSAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

March 14, 2012

3 PM, 333 Plant Biotechnology Building

MEMBERS PRESENT: John Sanseverino, Chair; Chunlei Su, Vice-Chair; Tamara Chavez-Lindell, David Bemis, Patti Coan, Al Iannacone, Dan Kestler, Reggie Millwood, Bonnie Ownley, HCR Wang, Ling Zhao  
Ex-Officio – Brian Ranger, Sarah DiFurio

MEMBERS ABSENT: Paul Dalhaimer, Doris D'Souza, Mariano Labrador, Jun Lin

OTHERS PRESENT: Dr. Muthukumar Balasubramariam, Graham Taylor, Jessica Woofter

## Opening:

The meeting was called to order by Chair, John Sanseverino at 3:00 PM.

Minutes of February 15, 2012 were reviewed and approved as written with 3 abstentions.

## IBC Applications:

### **#377 (Stephen A. Sarles) Acute Biological Toxin Registration, new registration**

Graham Taylor provided the committee with a summary of Dr. Sarles' research in encapsulating lipid bilayer-based assays for assessing botulinum neurotoxin A (BoNT/A) potency. Specifically, the BoNT/A toxin (purchased and contained in solution), will be diluted for insertion into an artificial cell membrane system. The insertion and activity of the toxin will be quantified by measuring the change in the electrical current that flows through the bilayer using probes contained in the flexible cartridge. After measurements are complete, the contents of the cartridge will be disposed and the cartridge will be cleaned for repeated use. Methods of security, engineering controls (specifically use of a Class II biosafety cabinet in Dr. Mingjun Zhang's lab for diluting/aliquoting toxin), toxin containment/inactivation, and emergency response were discussed by the committee. Graham Taylor and Brian Ranger clarified that no more than ~100 micrograms of the toxin would be on hand at any time and stocks would be inventoried regularly. Also, all assay procedures will be conducted with very small volumes of very dilute toxin. The committee voted to conditionally approve this registration pending further research into standard operating procedures for accidental exposure and treatments as well as verification of personnel training.

### **#378 (Aaron Baumann) Recombinant DNA Registration, III-D-4-a, new registration**

Dr. Baumann's registration involves transgenic fruit flies (*Drosophila melanogaster*). Specifically, germline transformation and subsequent transgenic crosses will be performed to better understand the temporal and tissue-specific role(s) of juvenile hormone during development. Most of the germline transformants will be purchased from (existing lines) or developed by commercial companies. The containment level is proposed at BL-1. The committee discussed a number of concerns regarding improper lab procedures, an undefined chain of command, and containment procedures. The committee voted to table this registration for the next IBC meeting pending clarification of previous issues.

### **#379 (Neal Stewart) Recombinant DNA Registration, III-E-2-a, new registration**

Dr. Muthukumar Balasubramariam provided the committee with a summary of Dr. Stewart's research in developing phytosensors through engineered transgenic plants that can detect early pathogen attack and herbicide contaminants in agricultural lands. The applicability of these promoters will be tested using red fluorescent protein (RFP) and red colored pap1 reporter genes. The committee voted to approve the registration at BL-1/BL-1-P as written pending administrative correction of typos. There was one abstention.

### **Old Business:**

#### Administrative Report

Brian Ranger provided the committee with the administrative report. Following up on the February 2012 IBC meeting, Dr. Saylor's registration (# 274-12) were administratively corrected to change the Principal Investigator to Dr. Ripp. Dr. Zhang's registration (#337-12) was also administratively corrected to change typos and to indicate Hepatitis B offer under medical surveillance. One amendment (Drs. Daley & Karlstad #349-addition of methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* strain 10943, Southwest Regional Wound Center; Lubbock, TX) was administratively approved. Two registrations were administratively terminated (Dr. Sparer's #359 & 360).

#### 2011 IBC Annual Report

Brian Ranger informed the committee that the 2011 IBC Annual Report is now available on the IBC website.

#### Minors in Research Labs Campus Policy (Update)

Brian Ranger provided the committee with an update on the STEM program policy. Comments have been collected regarding minors in research laboratories and were included in the written policy for further review by General Counsel. Mandatory generic biological and chemical safety modules are available for students to take at minimum. Students will also be required to take BSL-2 training courses depending on assigned lab requirements.

### **New Business:**

#### Spring BSL-2 Lab Inspections

Brian Ranger informed the committee that Spring BSL-2 lab inspections began on 3/13/2012.

The committee will reconvene April 18, 2012.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:51 PM.