

MINUTES OF THE INSTITUTIONAL BIOSAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

April 18, 2012

3 PM, 410 Plant Biotechnology Building

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chunlei Su, Vice-Chair; Patti Coan, Paul Dalhaimer, Al Iannacone, Jun Lin, Reggie Millwood, Bonnie Ownley, HCR Wang, Ling Zhao
Ex-Officio – Brian Ranger, Sarah DiFurio

MEMBERS ABSENT: Tamara Chavez-Lindell, David Bemis, Doris D’Souza, Dan Kestler, Mariano Labrador, John Sanseverino

OTHERS PRESENT: Dr. Yanhui Peng, Jessica Woofter

Opening:

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair, Chunlei Su at 3:10 PM.

Minutes of March 14, 2012 were reviewed and approved as written with 2 abstentions.

IBC Applications:

#386-12 (Rebecca Prosser) Acute Biological Toxin Registration, 3-year rewrite

Dr. Prosser’s registration covers the use of minute quantities of tetrodotoxin (TTX) as a reagent for neurobiological assays on murine brain tissues. Brian Ranger indicated that only small amounts (< 1 mg) of TTX are kept on hand and that inventories are up-to-date. The committee voted to approve the registration pending corrections to disinfectant concentrations and updated training records.

#378 (J. Kevin Moulton) Recombinant DNA Registration, III-D-4-a, new registration

Dr. Moulton’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 approved the registration as written.

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

Dr. Yanhui Peng provided the committee with a summary of Dr. Stewart’s research involving functional analysis of several genes belonging to the ATP-binding (ABC) superfamily, including those related to herbicide resistance or bacterial pathogens resistance. Transgenic plants will be used to modify gene expression. Briefly, full-length cDNA of candidate genes are being cloned into plant expression vectors, which will be used to transform susceptible biotypes of horseweed and/or Arabidopsis plants. These stably transgenic plants will be transformed using Agrobacterium-mediated transformations to deliver individual vector constructs. Similarly, RNA interference (RNAi) constructs will be designed to generate stably transgenic horseweed and/or Arabidopsis plants in resistant genetic background biotypes. Plants will be grown in growth chambers and greenhouse (with pollen screens, pollen bags, or flower removal). If plants are to be released into the field we will obtain a USDA APHIS BRS permits/notification prior to release. The proposed containment level is BL-1/BL-1-P. The committee voted to approve the registration as written. There was one abstention.

Old Business:

Administrative Report

Brian Ranger provided the committee with the administrative report. Following up on the March 2012 IBC meeting, Dr. Sarles provided his collaborator's emergency Standard Operating Procedures, which were very similar to that outlined in his registration (# 377). Tamara Chavez-Lindell contacted the CDC regarding antitoxin stocks and was informed that stocks would not be relocated unless necessary. She was also informed that the IND vaccine had been discontinued due to waning efficacy. Dr. Stewart's registration (# 379) was administratively corrected for minor typos.

New Form Update

Brian Ranger provided the committee with an update on the new PDF registration form. The subcommittee to review the progress includes Drs. Kestler, Bemis, Ownley, and Coan.

Lab Coat Laundering

Brian Ranger addressed the committee concerning the lab coat laundering that was previously tabled for further discussion. Brian Ranger contacted Drs. Reed and Oliver concerning this issue and was notified that the policy should be a departmental issue. The committee suggested making a campus wide policy that the individual Principal Investigator is responsible for training and overseeing that the lab coats are laundered properly, but that the Departments would be responsible for ensuring that the Principal Investigator and laboratory staff had a way to launder the lab coats.

New Business:

U.S. Federal Policy on Dual Use Research of Concern (DURC)

Brian Ranger provided the committee with a brief overview of the U.S. Federal Policy (promulgated by NIH OBA) on Dual Use Research of Concern (DURC). The purpose of this policy is to establish regular review of United States government-funded or conducted research with certain high-consequence pathogens and toxins for its potential to be DURC. The policy specifically addresses modification of high-consequence pathogens (e.g. Select Agents) to enhance virulence, subvert treatment/therapies, or otherwise elevate public health risks. The fundamental aim of this oversight is to preserve the benefits of life sciences research while minimizing the risk of misuse of the knowledge, information, products, or technologies provided by such research.

IBC Chair and Membership Review

Brian Ranger reminded the committee that appointments for the 2012-14 IBC need to be confirmed by June 1st. Current voting members were asked to declare their service intentions as soon as possible.

The committee will reconvene May 16, 2012.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:01 PM.