

MINUTES OF THE INSTITUTIONAL BIOSAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

February 20, 2013

3:00 PM, 410 Plant Biotechnology Building

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chunlei Su, Chair; Seung Baek, David Bemis, Tamara Chavez-Lindell, Patti Coan, Paul Dalhaimer, Doris D'Souza, Al Iannacone, Dan Kestler, Reggie Millwood, Bonnie Ownley, Jae Park, Ling Zhao
Ex-Officio – Brenda Lawson, Brian Ranger, Jonathan Phipps

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jun Lin, Vice-Chair and Melissa Kennedy

OTHERS PRESENT: Dr. Richard Gerhold, Jessica Woofter

Opening:

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Chunlei Su at 3:01 PM.

Minutes of January 16, 2013 were reviewed and approved pending the correction of typographical errors. There was one abstention.

IBC Applications:

#260-13 (Steven Ripp) Recombinant DNA Registration, III-D-4-a, new registration

This registration previously applied to research conducted by Dr. Ted Henry (Forestry, Wildlife, & Fisheries). The registration is being transferred to Dr. Steven Ripp. The research covers the development of a transgenic zebrafish that can serve as a bioreporter of estrogenic substances in the environment. Briefly, bioreporter constructs will consist of estrogenic-responsive promoter derived from zebrafish linked to various fluorescent proteins. The committee approved the registration pending typographical errors and with the stipulation that the Principal Investigator is to notify the Biosafety Office when new promoters are used for this registration. Containment was approved at BSL-1.

#301-13 (Mark Radosevich) Recombinant DNA Registration, III-E, 3-year rewrite

Dr. Radosevich's registration covered basic 16s ribosomal DNA cloning and sequencing for phylogenetic analysis of bacteria and bacterial communities isolated from soil, with particular emphasis on bacteria capable of metabolizing s-triazine herbicide. Additionally, the registration included generation of BAC libraries from soil-borne bacteria to identify previously uncharacterized catabolic genes with the s-triazine degrading phenotype. The biosafety level was established at BSL-1. The committee voted to approve the registration pending the clarification of the bacterial isolates, import/export permits, the correction of typographical errors, and expansion of the Nontechnical Summary/purpose of the research.

#308-13 (Jeff Becker) Recombinant DNA/Infectious Agent Registration, III-D-1-a; 4-b, 3-year rewrite

This registration captured Dr. Becker's use of genetically-modified strains of *Candida albicans* in a mouse model. Briefly, select genes that may play a role in virulence have been placed under the control of a tet-repressible promoter (using standard molecular techniques) to allow for selective control of gene expression during infection. These studies aim to identify genes that play a key role in virulence, which in turn may make suitable targets for antifungal drug development. Prescribed animal containment procedures adhere to BL-2/ABSL2. The committee voted to approve the registration pending clarification of HIS3 knockout genes and the correction of typographical errors.

#397 (Richard Gerhold) Recombinant DNA/Infectious Agent Registration, III-F, new registration

Dr. Gerhold was available to discuss his research objectives and answer questions. He will be conducting molecular parasitology experiments to determine the epidemiology of infections by comparing the DNA sequences of the various parasites including: *Trichomonas spp.* and *Eimeria spp.* in wild bird; *Toxoplasma spp.* in wild animals; *Trypanosoma spp.* from raccoons; and meningeal and carotid worms of deer, elk, and moose. Procedures will include DNA extraction and PCR testing using commercial testing kits. In addition various animal parasites will be cultured in the lab (*in vitro*) to perform a battery of experiments to understand the factors associated with infection and disease progression. Further work will include examining potential *in vitro* chemotherapeutic control options to control parasite infection. The committee approved this registration pending expansion of the Nontechnical Summary and minor administrative corrections. There was one abstention. Containment was set at BSL-2.

Old Business:

Administrative Report

Brian Ranger provided the committee with the administrative report. Following up on the January 16, 2013 IBC meeting, Dr. Neal Stewart's registration (#393) was updated administratively to include the addition of horseweed as rDNA host. Three registrations were terminated administratively (Dr. Neal Stewart's #249, Dr. Madhu Dhar's #346 & Dr. Graham Hickling's #362).

Meeting Announcements-EpiUpdate Posting

Brian Ranger announced to the committee that the EpiUpdate posting was distributed to the public with the help of Al Iannacone regarding the IBC meeting schedule.

Nanoparticles-Charter Amendment/Subcommittee Update

Dr. Jon Phipps presented the committee with a draft charter amendment to include the use of nanoparticles in biological research. The committee made a few minor recommendations for clarifying the types of nanoparticles and conjugates that would be covered by the IBC.

New Business:

Annual Report-2012

Brian Ranger presented the committee with an overview of services provided over the previous year. The committee agreed that the report could be distributed to research administrators for review/comment.

User Satisfaction Survey Results

Brian Ranger presented the committee with the results and feedback collected from the 2012 IBC/Biosafety User Satisfaction Survey. Feedback was generally positive, though some recommendations were made for improving the Biosafety website.

Changes to the IBC Registration Form-Reduce Requested Information for BSL-1 Labs

Brian Ranger discussed with the committee about altering the IBC registration to streamline registration processes for principal investigators using BSL-1 labs for their research.

USDA Biotechnology Regulatory Services Workshop (May, 2013)

Reggie Millwood notified the committee about the upcoming USDA Biotechnology Regulatory Services Workshop scheduled for May of this year.

VCR Proposal for Additional Safety Committees

Brian Ranger notified the committee that Taylor Eighmy, Vice Chancellor of Research, has proposed additional safety committees (e.g. a chemical safety committee to oversee the use of acutely toxic or hazardous chemicals). Members of the IBC may also be asked to serve on an executive committee to review laboratory safety standards.

The committee will reconvene March 20, 2013.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:16 PM.