

MINUTES OF THE INSTITUTIONAL BIOSAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

August 19, 2015

3:00 PM, 410 Plant Biotechnology Building

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jun Lin, Chair; Patti Coan, Vice Chair; Seung Baek, David Bemis, Tamara Chavez-Lindell, Doris D'Souza, Elizabeth Fozo, Reza Hajimorad, Al Iannacone, Brittany Isabell, Melissa Kennedy, Deidra Mountain, Jae Park, Ling Zhao

Ex-Officio – Robert Nobles, Brian Ranger, Mark Smith, Jessica Woofter

MEMBERS ABSENT: Paul Dalhaimer, Reggie Millwood

OTHERS PRESENT: Linda Hamilton, Dr. Bonnie Ownley

Opening:

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Jun Lin at 3:00 PM. Minutes of July 29, 2015 were reviewed and approved pending the correction of minor typographical errors.

IBC Applications:

#392-15 (Josh Bembenek) Recombinant DNA, III-E, 3-year rewrite

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 as written. Containment was set at BSL-1.

#431 (Alison Buchan) Recombinant DNA, III-E, New registration

Dr. Buchan's research involves the study of the pKNOCK-plasmid, which will be used to disrupt specific genes within selected strains of the marine bacteria (*Roseobacters*) that are studied in her lab. These strains are non-pathogenic and only grow in the presence of seawater. Dr. Buchan plans to disrupt genes that are involved in cell-to-cell communication amongst bacterial members of the same species as well as genes encoding for degradation of plant-derived aromatic compounds. The committee approved the registration pending update of the personnel and clarification of purpose and aims in the non-technical summary. Containment was set at BSL-1.

Old Business:

Administrative Report

Brian Ranger provided the committee with the administrative report. Following up on the July 29, 2015 IBC meeting, Dr. Rebecca Trout Fryxell's registration (#384-15) was administratively corrected to condense the registrations non-technical summary. Dr. Graciela Cabana's registration (#389-15) was administratively approved for Human Derived Materials that cover the extraction of DNA from human remains (from both modern and ancient sources). An amendment to Dr. Steven Wilhelm's registration (#404-15) was approved by the Chair to include the addition of *Aureococcus anophagefferens* (nonpathogenic, nontoxic alga). Dr. Pamela Small terminated her registrations (#271-12 & 282-12).

All materials are in secure storage per departmental arrangements. Dr. Irene Hanning-Jarquin's terminated her registration (#361-14), and all materials are in secure storage per departmental arrangements.

BSL-3 Progress Updates

Brian gave the committee an update on the BSL-3 facility in the College of Veterinary Medicine. The exhaust system is being put in place and the verification of systems will be conducted during the first week of September. Drs. Jonsson and Kania will still need to submit a registration. Once these requirements have been met, Brian will furnish the committee with result of the findings from the inspection and the facility should be ready.

Policy & Teaching Lab Framework Updates

Brian presented the committee with corrections and changes to the policy. The committee approved the policy pending modification of the authority section to include the BSO and correction of minor typographical errors.

Biosafety Specialist Update

Brian updated the committee on the Biosafety Specialist position. Interviews have been scheduled for the 25th and 26th of August. A decision should be reached by the end of August and the new hire should start by October 1st.

Biosafety Self-Assessment

Brian has obtained two volunteers for the self-assessment of the Biosafety Program. Marsha Smith with Radiation Safety will be one of the volunteers. The other volunteer is Dr. Todd Reynolds from Microbiology. Dr. Reynolds was chosen as he is a principal investigator that is impacted by the IBC and would be able to provide constructive insights regarding the program.

Division of Biology Training

The annual Division of Biology training was held on August 18th to train incoming faculty, staff, and students about best lab practices. ~60 trainees were present.

New Business:

Recognition of Service for Dr. Bonnie Ownley

The committee recognized Dr. Bonnie Ownley for her years of service to the IBC. She was presented with a commemorative plaque and certificate by Dr. Robert Nobles.

BSL-3 Lab Tour

Brian escorted the committee to the BSL-3 facility for inspection.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 PM.

The next meeting has tentatively been scheduled for September 16, 2015 at 3 PM.