

# MINUTES OF THE INSTITUTIONAL BIOSAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

January 16, 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, Melissa Kennedy, Dan Kestler, Bonnie Ownley, Ling Zhao  
Ex-Officio – Brenda Lawson, Brian Ranger, Jonathan Phipps

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jun Lin, Vice-Chair, Reggie Millwood, Jae Park

OTHERS PRESENT: Dr. Emefa Monu, Jessica Woofter

## Opening:

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

Minutes of December 19, 2012 were reviewed and approved as written.

## IBC Applications:

### **#292-13 (Zong-Ming Cheng) Recombinant DNA Registration, III-E-2-a, 3-year rewrite**

Dr. Cheng's research involves assessing the effects of various commonly used plant promoter systems (both constitutive and inducible) on plant genes involved in nitrogen assimilation, cellulose production, and stress tolerance in order to optimize growth rates and increase biomass. Experiments will be performed using primarily *Populus* species (poplar trees) as hosts, but *Arabidopsis*, soybean and agave may also be used as hosts. The committee approved the registration as written. Containment was established at BSL-1/BL-1-P.

### **#300-13 (P. Michael Davidson) Infectious Agent Registration, 3-year rewrite**

Dr. Emefu Monu was present to discuss Dr. Davidson's research involving several foodborne pathogens, including *Salmonella enterica*, *Listeria monocytogenes*, and *E. coli* O157:H7 (and other verotoxigenic strains), etc., used to test the efficacy of both traditional and naturally occurring antimicrobial food preservatives and sanitizers. He will also be evaluating traditional and novel methods of microbial inactivation to determine the best methods of preserving food products and ensuring food safety. The biosafety level was established at BSL-2. The committee approved the registration as written.

## Old Business:

### Administrative Report

Brian Ranger provided the committee with the administrative report. Following up on the September 19, 2012 IBC meeting, Dr. Guoxun Chen's registration (#292-12) was updated administratively to include a clarification of the insert gene source (rodent vs. human) as well as update personnel training dates. Dr. Doris D'Souza's registration (#298-12) was corrected administratively to include a clarification of types of assays used for detection and enumeration as well as specifics for lab coat laundering procedures. Dr. Ling Zhao's registration (#344-12) and Dr. Jason Collier's registration (#345-12) were both corrected administratively to included updated personnel training dates. Dr. Neal

Stewart's registration (#393) was updated administratively to include a clarification from the Principal Investigator that the gene name as 'bar' which encodes resistance to glufocinate ammonium.

#### NIH Automated Reporting-Biosketch Requests

Brian Ranger reminded the committee that the NIH has launched an electronic registration and membership renewal system. However, the IBC annual update will be due prior to full implementation of this system (~March, 2013). Therefore, biosketches will be postponed until the re-appointment of the committee in July, 2013.

#### Meeting Announcements

Brian Ranger followed up with the committee concerning making the public more aware of IBC meetings. An announcement will be drafted to explain the IBC functions and scheduled meeting dates. Al Iannacone will assist in publishing the announcement in *EpiUpdate*, a publication emailed to doctors, veterinarians, and others in the health community in the metro area.

#### User Satisfaction Survey

Brian Ranger notified that the IBC/Biosafety Program User Satisfaction Survey has only had roughly 30 responses and will remain open to capture more responses.

#### Nanoparticles-Charter Amendment/Subcommittee Request

Brian Ranger approached the committee about creating a subcommittee to review and amend the IBC charter to include the use of nanoparticles in research on campus. The subcommittee consists of Paul Dalhaimer, Al Iannacone and Patti Coan.

#### **New Business:**

#### Charter Review and Updates-Subcommittee Request

Brian Ranger approached the committee about creating a subcommittee to review and update the IBC Charter. The subcommittee consists of Bonnie Ownley, Tamara Chavez-Lindell and Dan Kestler. The target date for completion is July 1, 2013.

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

This topic was not discussed.

#### Changes to Training Program

Brian Ranger queried the committee about the current biosafety training program, specifically the frequency of refresher trainings. The committee agreed that annual BSL-2 training is appropriate, but recommended changing the content each year.

#### Upcoming Changes to Biosafety Website

Brian Ranger notified the committee about some site changes that will occur on the Biosafety Office's website regarding structure and organization of information.

#### New Biosafety Email Address

Brian Ranger reminded the committee that the Biosafety Office now has a general delivery email, [utbiosafety@utk.edu](mailto:utbiosafety@utk.edu) that automatically delivers notifications to everyone in the office.

The committee will reconvene February 20, 2013.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 PM.