

University of Dundee

GENETIC MODIFICATION AND BIOLOGICAL SAFETY COMMITTEE
(CITY CAMPUS)

A meeting of the Committee was held on 26 Aug 2009 at 11am in JBC-2L3-206. The meeting closed at 12 noon.

Present: Prof D van Aalten (Convener), Dr A Cecile, Ms L Grayson, Dr N Helps, Prof I Nathke, Dr A Knebel, Dr L Newman, Dr P Robertson, Dr I Scragg, and Dr S Wyllie.

MINUTE

Item	Action
1. Apologies Received from Dr J Zomerdyk, Dr N Stanley-Wall and Dr P Taylor.	
2. Welcome Prof van Aalten opened the meeting. Dr Scragg circulated copies of the minute of the previous meeting and apologised for forgetting to send out copy with Agenda.	
3. Minute of previous meeting Approved.	
4. HSE Class 2 generic notification Dr Scragg explained that he had received a letter from the HSE in April (ie 3 months after submission of notification) requesting that the very broad generic notification be divided into several more specific notifications. Dr Scragg had responded positively to this letter by listing all City Campus current Class 2 notifications and by highlighting the risks of research likely to be undertaken in the next few months. With this additional information the HSE accepted a reasonably broad notification entitled 'Investigation of in vitro and in vivo cellular processes of hazard group 2 bacterial pathogens clinically relevant in the UK'. This notification does not cover genetically modified bacterial pathogens transmitted via an airborne route eg <i>N. meningitidis</i> or modified replication competent viruses such as flu virus. Ms Grayson referred members to the College H&S web site where information about HSE notifications can be found. She explained that all current work has been notified. New research such as work with genetically modified fungi eg <i>Aspergillus fumigatus</i> may require a separate notification. Prof Van Aalten reminded members that all research with genetically modified micro-organisms (including disabled lab strains of E.coli and HEK293 cells) has to be risk assessed and	

<p>reviewed by members. Part of this review process is to check if this research falls under an existing HSE notification or if a new notification is required.</p> <p>Prof Nathke enquired if the review process is working satisfactorily. Ms Grayson reported that for the most recent risk assessment involving RCAS she had received several comments. The current system relies upon members expressing concerns within a certain time-scale. Dr Scragg agreed that the current system is working well, and would identify any risk assessments that require detailed scrutiny.</p>	
<p>5. Review of risk assessments</p> <p>Ms Grayson reported that the review of most risk assessments on the database were overdue. She had drafted an e-mail reminder for circulation to PI's by Prof VanAlten. The e-mail would include a copy of the current risk assessment attached as a pdf file so the PI could easily mark up minor changes.</p> <p>Ms Grayson reported that she had scan read some grant applications. This had proved a useful information gathering exercise, not only about use of gmo but also human tissue which requires ethical approval under the research governance framework. It had not proved unduly time consuming and would not delay the grant process since her approval was not required.</p> <p>Prof Van Alten reported he would discuss this issue further with the Acting Head of College.</p> <p>Prof VanAlten suggested that Ms Grayson should attend the Crieff Symposium since this would also be a good opportunity to gather information about current and proposed research.</p>	<p>Ms Grayson to send e-mail to all PI's on behalf of Prof VanAlten asking them to review their risk assessments.</p> <p>Ms Grayson and Dr Scragg will review updated risk assessments and associated SOP's in light of the inspection programme.</p>
<p>6. Training DVD</p> <p>Ms Grayson presented the tissue culture video she has been making with Larry Fortune, Safety Services. The filming is almost complete and she has started to draft the voice over script.</p> <p>Members commented favourably on the video, and encouraged Ms Grayson to continue.</p> <p>Dr Scragg explained that he planned to use Blackboard VLE as a suitable means to provide this training since it enables monitoring of compliance and understanding.</p> <p>Prof VanAlten suggested another more accessible web based format together with a short quiz would be preferable. This could be included as part of the induction process for new staff and students, and made readily available to existing staff.</p>	<p>Ms Grayson and Safety Services to continue production of DVD.</p>
<p>7. CL 2 and 3 lab inspection programme</p>	

Ms Grayson reported that (insert number) labs had been inspected- with one outstanding. Inspection reports were available on H&S College web site, and a copy had been sent to Divisional BSA for discussion at Divisional meetings.

Dr Scragg reported that for the lab inspections he had participated in he had generally found high standards of 'house- keeping' for such heavily used shared facilities. However, staff awareness of risk assessments and in some cases SOP's was patchy. This highlights the importance of the training dvd.

Ms Grayson summarised the inspection report and highlighted key issues: staff lacked knowledge of risk assessments, training required for laboratory managers as well as research staff and students, replacement of fabric covered chairs with wipeable ones.

Ms Grayson highlighted two laboratories in WTB Level 2 where there is a serious lack of space. This has resulted in Microbiological Safety Cabinets failing the KI Operator Protection Test. This means these cabinets cannot be used for Class 2 work ie work with viral vectors. The solution is to either remove some Safety Cabinets or find additional laboratory space. An inspection report has been sent to the Division.

Ms Grayson commented on the very high standard of housekeeping in the MRC laboratories which have dedicated support staff.

Prof VanAlten thanked Ms Grayson for completing this major inspection programme. He asked Ms Grayson when the programme would be repeated. Ms Grayson explained her plan to continue with fortnightly inspections and given the number of laboratories to inspect she estimates the inspection cycle will be 14-18 monthly.

8. New derogated CL 3 lab

Dr Wyllie reported that the building programme is behind schedule with completion now estimated for Oct/Nov.

9. Date of next meeting

11am, Weds 24th Feb 2010