

University of Dundee

GENETIC MODIFICATION AND BIOLOGICAL SAFETY COMMITTEE (MAIN CAMPUS)

A meeting of the Committee was held on Wednesday, 27 January 2004 at 10.30am in the Wellcome Trust Building. The meeting closed at 11.30am.

Present: Prof C Weijer (Convener), Dr J Zomerdyk, Dr D Williams, Dr W Whitfield, Dr M Ariyanagam, Ms L Grayson, Ms K Paterson, Dr I Ellis, Dr I Scragg

MINUTE

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Dr N Helps, Dr L Guthia, Dr I Nathke

2. Review of Genetically Modified Micro-organisms (GMM) Risk Assessments (RA)

USOGMM1076: Generation of Conditional PKD 'Knockout' mice, Prof D Cantrell
Committee approved as Class 1.

USOGMM1081: T lymphocyte signal transduction: Analysis of the biochemistry and biology of Rho family GTPases and the serine kinase Protein Kinase D in T cells, Prof D Cantrell
Committee approved as Class 1.

USOGMM1082: Preparation of recombinant proteins for structural biology, Dr D van Alten
Committee approved as Class 1.

USOGMM1083: Nodulation of legumes by beta-rhizoba, Dr E James
Committee approved as Class 1.

USOGMM1084: Preparation of recombinant proteins for structural Biology, Dr C Bond
Committee approved as Class 1.

Action: IS to write to PI informing them of Committee's decision

USOGMM1079: Studies of Cdt1 functions in mammalian cells, Dr A Ferenbach
This assessment was incomplete.

Action: KW to determine status of work

LG informed Committee that all PI were sent an e-mail in November asking them to review their RA and update if necessary. Ten PI had responded to confirm this had been done. Discussion centred about the need to evidence that all RA had been reviewed.

KW suggested including a check box on the RA database so that PI had to confirm this had been done, and this was agreed.

LG informed Committee that she had archived RA's of staff who had left complex. However, she had retained Dr C Halpin's RA's for Class 1 GMM work and genetically modified plants since this work was still on-going at Hawkhill greenhouse.

WW stated that he would contact Dr Halpin to determine her intentions regarding this work. During HSE inspection in 2002 it had been agreed that this work would transfer to SCRI since they have far better facilities for this type of work.

Actions:

LG to update RA database to include additional annual review checkbox.

LG and IS to review all updated RA, and to report back to Convener.

WW to contact Dr Halpin to determine why SCRI cannot support her work.

3. Review of genetically modified animal RA

USOGMA/04.1 Regulation of protein synthesis in health and disease

USOGMA/04.2 Assessment of the immune status of mice lacking AEP protease and the impact of this on susceptibility to inflammatory autoimmune disease

USO/GMA04.3 T-lymphocyte signal transduction

These RA were considered and approved since WBRU facility is suitable for this work involving standard 'knock out' and 'knock in' technologies.

Action: IS to write to PI informing them of Committee's decision.

LN confirmed internal documentation alerted PI of the need to complete RA and obtain Committee's approval before work starts.

4. Security

IS informed Committee of imminent inspection by Special Branch Police Officer under Anti-Terrorism, Crime and Security Act. He reminded Committee of the powers given to Police under this Act such as requiring additional locks, secure glazing, perimeter security, body searches, and staff vetting are carried out. He said that other Universities had been required to spend large sums of money making improvements. Since this is largely a security issue, Richard Borrer would be co-ordinating the inspection, but IS would work closely with RB to convince the Police that the University was a responsible organisation committed to ensuring security of specified toxins and pathogens.

LG reminded Committee of her Code of Practice that deals with this issue. She expressed concern that the small amounts of toxins held throughout labs could exceed the 5mg cut-off for notification to the Home Office if these labs were not regarded as individual secure units. This is an issue since only at WTB level 1 are labs routinely kept locked during normal working hours.

KP informed Committee that she had met with the Home Office official responsible for implementation of this Act at a recent BSO meeting, and he could be contacted for further advice if the University had any concerns.

5. AOB

No further business.

6. Date of next meeting

IS to arrange in about six months.

