

University of Dundee

GENETIC MODIFICATION AND BIOLOGICAL SAFETY COMMITTEE (CITY CAMPUS)

A meeting of the Committee was held on Friday, 10 November 2006 at 2.00pm in the Boardroom, MSI Building. The meeting closed at 2.45pm.

Present: Prof C Weijer (Convener), Dr I Ellis, Ms L Grayson, Dr N Helps, Dr I Nathke, Dr L Newman, Dr N Stanley-Wall, Dr I Scragg, Dr S Wyllie and Dr J Zomerdyk

MINUTE

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Dr P Taylor

2. Matters Arising

LG reported that about 2/3 of staff had responded to the request to review their risk assessments. IS commented that from his experience this was a good response for a 'first pass'. KW stated that all staff need to reply-it is not optional.

Action: KW and LG to e-mail non-responders asking them to review their risk assessments to ensure that they include all on-going research.

LG reported that risk assessments, HSE notifications and SASA licence have been completed for two new staff joining Environmental and Applied Biology. It is likely that SASA will inspect facilities and procedures when the work has commenced.

KW enquired if lentiviral work had been re-classified. LG explained that the final version of the Compendium of Guidance published by Scientific Advisory Committee on Genetic Modification was less prescriptive than the draft version. This enables local Committees to risk assess lentiviral projects on a case by case. IS agreed that the risk assessments and classifications made under the previous Guidance were still valid.

KW reported that Prof C Tickle is leaving for Bath University in September. LG informed Committee that if her Class 2 work is continued in Life Sciences that a new notification may have to be made if she transfers her notification to Bath.

3. Review of Risk Assessments

IS reported that the approach of e-mailing members of the Committee to comment only if they had issues with risk assessments was proving helpful in speeding up the review process. No outstanding issues regarding recent risk assessments were raised by members.

IE notified IS that Dr R Kays had left the Dental School, and Dr D Edwards had joined from the Medical School. However, Dr Edwards was not carrying out research involving genetically modified micro-organisms. IS agreed to check his records for the Medical School.

IS asked if IE could have access to Life Sciences database so he could review risk assessments on-line. LG replied that if he could provide his IP address to K Oza that this should be possible.

3. Toxins/pathogens

LG reported that she was amending College policy to reflect changes in Schedule 5 of the Anti-Terrorism legislation. The only toxin held in significant amount (Microcystin) by the College had been removed from the Schedule. A secure store approved by local Counter Terrorism Security Adviser (CTSA) was now available in MSI.

IS emphasised the importance of keeping an up to date inventory since this will demonstrate effective management to the CTSA. During a recent inspection of the Medical School the CTSA had mentioned to IS that he would inspect records sometime in August. LG expressed surprise since the CTSA had not mentioned this to her during a recent conversation on another issue.

IS asked if the secure store could be used to improve security of small amounts of toxins without causing significant disruption to research activities. However, until further information from research groups is available current arrangements will continue.

NSW asked if the new e-procurement system could be modified to 'flag up' if a toxin is ordered. SW thought this would be possible with the new system.

Action: LG to consider use of e-procurement system when reviewing Life Sciences policy.

4. AOB

LG reported that inspections of CL2 laboratories were beginning on Thursday. She invited Biological Safety Advisers to join the inspection team of LG, IS, Irene Blair and the Laboratory Manager.