

University of Dundee

City Campus Genetic Modification and Biological Safety Committee

A meeting of the Committee was held on 9 May 2012 at 2pm in JBC Meeting Room Level 2. The meeting closed at 2.45pm.

Present: Prof D van Aalten (Convener), Dr A-C Declais, Ms L Grayson, Dr N Helps, Dr L Newman, Dr A Javelle, Dr I Scragg,

Apologies: Ms Liz Emslie, Dr J Zomerdijk.

Minute

Item	Action
1. Minute of previous meeting	Approved
2. Matters arising DvA reported that LG and IS have completed the tissue culture training package. It includes a short test at the end of the package to verify understanding. Completion is required for new staff and students as part of their H&S induction training. All CLS staff will be e-mailed to make them aware this training package is available on-line. During inspections when LG observes poor practice she will remind staff to complete the training package.	LG to send e-mail to CLS All to draw their attention to this tissue culture training package.
3. Risk Assessments approved by IS since last meeting IS outlined these Class 1 assessments which are similar to previously approved assessments. Members agreed with classification.	
4. Approval process DvA explained that this short paper documents current arrangements to ensure all risk assessments are scrutinised in a timely and proportionate fashion. In addition to two scheduled meetings a meeting will be called to review Class 3 assessments. In essence, members will review by e-mail Class 2 assessments and IS will approve on members behalf Class 1 assessments, and Class 2 assessment involving well characterised viral vectors which have a similar level of risk to previously approved projects. Members agreed with this approach.	
5. Annual update of risk assessments DvA informed members that review of some 2011 projects are overdue. He proposed that these projects should be reviewed as part of the 2012 review. DvA proposed the following procedure to ensure a timely response: 1. LG to e-mail all PI's with a copy of their existing risk	LG to initiate procedure for annual update of risk assessments.

<p>assessment asking them to confirm by the end of May if it remains valid or if there are changes.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. LG to inform Divisional representatives of non-responders so they can ask PI's to respond by 15 June. 3. LG to inform DvA of non-responders so he can ask them to respond by 22 June. 4. DvA will inform SRB of progress. <p>IS welcomed and fully supported this approach.</p>	
<p>6. HSE inspection</p> <p>DvA reported on the positive outcome of the inspection, and commented upon the inspectors' decision to focus on Cat 3 labs.</p> <p>IS commented that his best guess is that HSE inspections of Cat 3 facilities will be carried out on a three yearly cycle.</p>	
<p>7. Membership and remit of Committee</p> <p>DvA explained this paper outlines current arrangements and the proposal to have one University Biological Agents Committee which would approve work with biological agents ie gmo's and non gmo's.</p> <p>IS explained the reasoning behind one Committee: it would facilitate sharing of best practice and a consistent standard across the University.</p> <p>DvA highlighted that the proposed membership of the new Committee did not include a senior management representative from either CLS or CMDN as there is a rotating chair.</p> <p>IS agreed it is important to include this direct reporting line to College senior management teams. He suggested the Committee includes a senior manager from CLS and CMDN, and rotating the venue between CLS and CMDN with the relevant senior manger taking the chair for that venue.</p> <p>A-cD asked about student and staff representatives on the membership list since they have not been appointed. IS explained it is another means to ensure all staff and students are informed of how risks from genetic modification are managed- though as the technology has developed and become mainstream this is less of an issue. It also gives all staff groups involved in handling gmo's an opportunity to raise issues and input into safe working practices eg autoclave staff. For students it is an opportunity to input into management systems. DvA commented that SRB includes staff and student representatives.</p>	<p>LG to ask support staff managers if it would be beneficial for staff reps to attend.</p> <p>DvA to consider inviting post-doc and student representatives.</p> <p>IS to discuss proposed changes to Committee membership and remit with Medical School Committee, and to report back to DvA.</p>
<p>8. AOB</p> <p>NH informed members of a proposal to work with <i>Shigella flexneri</i> in MRC/ScILLS. This proposal is dependent upon</p>	

<p>the cost of upgrading security arrangements.</p> <p>NH informed Committee of the plan to transfer MRC employees to University by April 2013. IS explained it should be straight forward to transfer HSE notifications by writing to the HSE.</p> <p>LG informed members of a proposal to work with <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> in collaboration with Mechanical Engineering. She enquired if the generic HSE notification would cover this work. IS confirmed it would, and suggested that Mechanical Engineering's Biological Safety Adviser is invited to join this Committee. DvA agreed, and commented it is likely there will be increased collaboration with Engineering.</p>	
<p>9. Date of next meeting 11am Weds 22 Aug</p>	