

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 S Wyllie, Dr N Helps, Dr L Newman, Dr I Nathke, Dr N Stanley-Wall, Dr P Taylor, Ms L Grayson, Dr I Scragg

MINUTE

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Dr I Ellis, Dr J Zomerdyk

2. Annual review of risk assessments

Committee agreed that staff needed to be reminded to review their risk assessments. This is best achieved by sending out an e-mail to all PI.

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

Action: LG and IS to review updated risk assessments, and to draw to Committee's attention significant changes.

IS informed Committee that the Scientific Advisory Committee on Genetic Modification had published recently draft guidance. In this guidance work with disabled lentiviruses pseudotyped with vsv-g should be Class 2. The Committee had previously passed one project using this vector as Class 1.

Note: after the meeting this was identified as a project led by Dr B Lane.

Action: LG agreed to write to Dr Lane asking her as part of her annual review to re-consider her classification for this work in the light of new draft guidance.

3. Toxins/pathogens

IS reminded Committee of the increasing level of security required in today's world following 9/11, 7/7 and on-going terrorist activity. He highlighted the recent inspection of the irradiator facility as an example of the high standard of security measures required. He asked members to ensure they asked PI's to complete their toxin/pathogen record issued several months ago. Up to date paperwork would demonstrate to the Police that robust management systems are in place.

PW informed Committee that they had been unable to order a chemical from Calbiochem since they lacked the necessary paperwork.

LG informed Committee that they had recently obtained a licence for a drug precursor.

Committee discussed using one central secure lab to store stocks of toxins, and for small amounts (eg half a lethal dose) to be taken to labs. They agreed this may be the best solution, though a final decision should await further information about stocks being held, and their usage.

IN and PW indicated that information was not reaching PI's about what chemicals fell under these security arrangements.

LG reminded Committee that the information was on the H&S web pages, and she had sent around frequent e-mails.

IS reminded Committee that he had recently sent an e-mail to BSA giving details about toxins/pathogens, and asking for information. This had been followed up by several reminders sent by Lesley Hewitt.

Action: LG to send information about toxin/pathogens and drug precursors to Divisional Secretaries so that it can be included as an Agenda item at Divisional meetings.

Action: IS to complete toxin/pathogen register