University of Dundee

GENETIC MODIFICATION AND BIOLOGICAL SAFETY COMMITTEE (MAIN CAMPUS)

A meeting of the Committee was held on Thursday, 22 September 2005 at 2.30pm in the Wellcome Trust Building. The meeting closed at 3.15pm.

Present: Prof C Weijer (Convener), Dr J Zomerdyk,, Dr W Whitfield, Dr S Wyllie, Ms L Grayson, Dr I Scragg

MINUTE

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Dr I Ellis.

2. Appointment of Biological Safety Advisers

WW indicated that he was unable to continue as BSA for Environmental and Applied Sciences since he was longer active in research involving GMO's. Committee thanked him for his contribution.

Action: KW to write to Divisional Heads of Environmental and Applied Sciences, Cell Biology and Immunology, and Molecular Physiology asking them to appoint a scientist working with GMO as BSA for their Divisions.

3. 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, including new PI who are populating the CIR.

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

Action: LG is to give Janette Cordiner a checklist of safety issues that can be issued to new PI when they arrive.

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

(a) USOGMM1075: Prof Colin Watts, Capture, processing and presentation of antigens by dendritic cells.

Committee discussed the function of the genes being expressed in the three viral vector systems, and agreed a list of genes being expressed in each system was needed for clarity.

Action: LG to ask CW to update risk assessment detailing genes being expressed in viral vector systems.

(c) USOGMM1091: Prof P Downes, Retroviral expression of inositol hexakisphosphate kinases in human cell lines

Committee discussed likely function of IP6 kinases 1,2 and 3 and agreed that they were unlikely to be harmful. Therefore, this work was approved as Class 1 given that a well characterised replication defective retrovirus is being used.

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