

MRC Unit

a) Lab Coat Contamination Incident

MR gave an account of the lab coat 32P contamination incident in the MRCPPU Supervised Area. AB confirmed that monitoring is usually done after each use and assurance monitoring is carried out weekly by end users, on a rota system. It appears that the culprit did not fill in the logs or carry out contamination monitoring. AB issued an email to all end users asking for any relevant information but no one came forward. MR pointed out that this is the first reported incident of this type in 10 years and that the MRCPPU monitoring logs are always comprehensive and up to date. AB commented that this incident highlighted the importance of having separate lab coats for Hot Room use. LG proposed reviewing the storage of lab coats within the Hot Rooms with a view to preventing cross contamination. MR and DL to discuss.

MR/DL

b) SCILLS

MR asked when TMRC would be vacating the fourth floor of JBC in order to make way for the SCILLS facility. LMG informed the Committee that TMRC would move to Ninewells on the 18th of December and this would be followed by a period of minor refurbishment before the SCILLS personnel take up residence. LG asked if there had been any decision on whether the SCILLS facility would be covered by the University or the MRCPPU certificates of Authorisation and Registration. DH said this had not been confirmed but he was happy for SCILLS to fall within the University remit. MR said that he had previously spoken to NRH about this and he was happy for SCILLS to be covered by the University Registration/Authorisation. DH asked LMG if it was likely that large amounts of any particular radioisotope will be used. LMG said she would check with the end users and report back to MR/DL. LG stressed that this must be done quickly to avoid any delay to radioisotope work starting. SCILLS issues will come under the Main Campus agenda item from now on.

LMG

5. Medical School

a) JS issued her December 2008 Update and drew attention to the item referring to the new structure within the Medical School. The current RPS appointments and remits are as before but this may change in the near future.

b) Clinical Research Centre

- The MRI scanner is operational.
- The PET-CT tenders are out and the response deadline is 15/12/09. The aim is to have the scanner installed in June 2009. Acquisition of a Cyclotron is still in the pipeline but not a priority at present.
- The Trust's Authorisation and Registration adequately covers the use of Fluorine 18 at present but this may change in future. There are a limited number of Fluorine 18 suppliers and there is concern as to whether the Tracer Development Facility at Aberdeen University can cope with national demand.
- In response to questions from DH and GR, JS confirmed that: any necessary amendments to the Authorisation/Registration certificates will be dealt with by the Trust; waste disposal arrangements will be handled by the Trust; safe delivery of Fluorine 18 will be the responsibility of the radioisotope supplier; any request for additional funding from the University will be made via the CRC Committee.

c) Translational Medicine Research Centre

TMRC have not communicated any intention to work with Radioisotopes at their new site.

d) Replacement for JS and Interim Arrangements

JS informed the Committee that her post is being advertised and her replacement will take on all current Medical School duties. In the mean time, JS's deputy will provide cover as required. No disruption to the service provided to the Medical School is envisaged.

6. RPS Matters

a) New RPSs

Marianne Reilly is in training as the new RPS for WTB Floor 3. Elena Knatko is taking on the role of Deputy RPS for JBC Floor M but this is a temporary arrangement and duties will be limited to authorising/placing orders and collecting packages from Stores.

b) RPS Training

- LG asked if the Radioactive Spill Training for RPSs could be delivered in early 2009. DL and MR agreed. DL/MR/LG to finalise and set dates.
- LMG asked if mock SEPA inspections could be carried out to prepare the Lab Managers for the next real inspection. There was some discussion about which topics to focus on. LMG felt it was important to check protocols and waste methodologies. SS suggested selecting individual radioisotope users to interview in order to ascertain how well they understood the procedures etc. LMG, LG and AB all agreed that this would be very useful. LG offered to check all RiMS files as part of the inspection program. DH agreed that mock SEPA Inspections should be conducted. DL and MR to take this forward. MR added that he is hoping to attend the next SEPA inspection at SCRI before Xmas to gain insight into the current inspection format.

DL/MR/
LG

c) RPS Forum

MR surveyed the RPSs and only 25% said they were in favour of having an RPS forum. The committee agreed that it was not worth pursuing this any further. SS proposed having an RPS discussion board instead. DL said Blackboard/My Dundee could be used as a platform for this. LG suggested that a blog or wiki on the Safety Services web site might be easier to set up and access. DL to investigate. SS asked that all RPSs are informed as soon as the resource is up and running.

DL/MR

7. Waste Disposal

a) Storage of VLLW in JBC Stores

MR reported that the 10 fold relaxation on the VLLW limits for 3H and 14C, from 0.4 MBq to 4 MBq per 100l, had already resulted in a saving of £6836.00 and freed up a considerable amount of space in the JBC Store.

b) Costs (see Appendix A)

DH drew attention to Ninewells' diminishing annual waste disposal costs. JS maintained that this was primarily due to the switch in waste contractor from Safeguard to Sterile Technologies Group (STG). STG charge per volume rather than per MBq and have a national contract with the NHS. LMG suggested that the University might be able to benefit from the NHS agreement. DH explained that there had been a sharp hike in sealed source disposal costs, from approximately £1000 to £3500 for a scintillation counter Europium source, and this had prompted him to consider other contractors.

8. Additional Agenda Items

a) Julie Frearson's Suggestion for Minutes

JF suggested having a summary of important points as an addendum to the minutes for the benefit of the University Safety Committee. DH thought it would be more appropriate to discuss this when JF was present.

b) Institute for Medical Science and Technology (IMSaT)

DL has a meeting with Prof Melzer on 11/12/08 to discuss the new IMSaT facility at the Medipark. IMSaT is a joint research & development initiative by the Universities of Dundee and St. Andrews. This facility will house an MRI scanner, laser equipment and, possibly, an x-ray fluoroscopy device. JS explained that Prof Melzer had assumed that the Medical School's radiation protection arrangements would extend to IMSaT but no additional funding or staff have been made available for this. DH accepted that the University was responsible for radiation protection arrangements at IMSaT but

asked if the Medical Physics team would be willing to give advice. JS did not have any objection to this.

9. Date of Next Meeting

DH said it would be more appropriate for the Committee Convener to set the date but he suggested adhering to the current 6 monthly frequency. DL to communicate this to JF.

DL

Appendix A

Annual Campus/Ninewells Radioactive Waste Disposal Costs

Campus [calendar year]		Ninewells [financial year]	
Year	Cost [£]	Year	Cost [£]
2002	20,508		
2003	12,684	2002/3	20,961
2004	12,122	2003/4	22,547
2005	6,399	2004/5	20,250
2006	9,589	2005/6	20,545
2007	8,286	2006/7	2,171
2008		2007/8	1,012

Year 2006 for the Campus includes the cost [£4,302] of disposing of 4 radium sources [two of which came from the Medical School].