



Safety Services

Head of Safety Services
Dr Ian G Scragg

20 March 2012

GMO Notifications Assessment Manager
Biological Agents Unit

Dear Sir/ Madam

Re: Additional information requested for GM6/12.1 entitled "Use of genetically modified Hazard Group 2 viruses indigenous to the UK in molecular studies of innate and adaptive immunity"

Thank you for letter dated 8th March 2012. The information you requested is given below:

1. I confirm that that the work in which genes are mutated will be restricted to modifications that cause a loss of function. Each new proposal will be carefully scrutinised by the City Campus GM and Biological Safety Committee to ensure it falls within the bounds of this notification.
2. Intranasal infections are carried out in a Class II microbiological safety cabinet. Viral amplification and harvesting in/from embryonated eggs may be undertaken in future. Incubation will be carried out within a dedicated 37 degrees C incubator in a Containment Level 2 facility. Inoculation and harvesting will be carried out within a Class II microbiological safety cabinet.
3. Given the residual level of risk when all other control measures are applied and the variation in protection afforded by current vaccines [Lancet Infectious Diseases, Volume 12, Issue 1, Pages 36 - 44, January 2012] I do not think vaccination of the workers is warranted
4. All animals will be anaesthetised or physically restrained, depending upon the level of risk, as authorised in the project licence prior to inoculation. Workers will use sharps-disposal stations for syringe needles and never attempt to re-sheath hypodermic needles.
5. Non-infected and infected animals will **not** be housed within the same independently ventilated cage. The statement you refer to in Section 5e of the risk assessment is a quote from a paper to illustrate that spread of infection via shedding into the cage/bedding is unlikely.
6. I confirm that risks arising from work with other viruses will be no greater than those associated with the influenza work. Each new proposal will be carefully scrutinised by the City Campus GM and Biological Safety Committee to ensure it falls within the bounds of this notification.

I trust this additional information will address the issues identified in your thorough review of this notification and please be assured that I will contact you for advice if I have any concerns about future work conducted under this notification.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Ian G. Scragg'.

Dr Ian G Scragg
Head of Safety Services