



**University at Buffalo**  
*The State University of New York*

University Biosafety Committee

February 28, 2007

Michelle Johnson-Lancaster  
IBC Coordinator  
Office of Biotechnology Activities  
National Institutes of Health  
6705 Rockledge Drive  
Suite 750, MSC 7985  
Bethesda, MD 20892-7785

CORRECT.  
TSP MISTAKE

Dear Ms. Johnson-Lancaster:

This letter is written in response to the February 20, 2007 communication from Dr. Amy Patterson regarding submission of IBC Minutes to the Sunshine Project.


Minutes were submitted via e-mail to Mr. Edward Hammond, Director, Sunshine Project on November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2006. I have enclosed copies of the original e-mail and of the Committee's minutes sent as attachments to that communication.

I was not aware that the Sunshine Group had not received our minutes until receipt of your office's communication. The University at Buffalo's Biosafety Committee minutes are available to the community on request and the meetings are open to any interested parties. It is imperative that federally funded scientific research is an open and transparent process, and public trust of academic and research institutions is not compromised.

Mr. Hammond has been copied on this letter, and copies of the minutes sent with the original communication were enclosed.

I trust this resolves the issue. Please do not hesitate to contact me if further information is required.

Sincerely,

  
Leonard J. Borzynski  
Biosafety Officer

Cc: Kenneth Tramosch, PhD., Institutional Biosafety Committee Chair  
David Vasbinder, EH&S Director  
Edward Hammond, Director, Sunshine Project



**Minutes of Biosafety Committee Meeting 2-21-05.doc**

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**UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO**  
**ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH AND SAFETY SERVICES**  
**UNIVERSITY BIOSAFETY COMMITTEE**

**University Biosafety Committee Meeting of September 16, 2004**

A meeting of the University Biosafety was convened at 5:00 PM on Thursday, September 16, 2005 at the Golden Duck Restaurant in the Town of Amherst.

A brief business meeting was held, followed by a dinner honoring Dr. Philip LoVerde for his service as Biosafety Committee Chair and as BL3 Laboratory Director..

**Business:**

Dr. Ian Hay was introduced as new Biosafety Committee member to members present.

It was reported that the Amendment to UB's Select Agent Certification was submitted to the CDC.

Final Review of our CDC Inspection has been completed and we await approval.

The status of the BL3 unit was reported, with plans for video surveillance being the most significant upgrade. The installation of a new Class III hood has not been assigned a definitive timetable.

The formal meeting was adjourned at 5:30.

Respectively submitted.

Leonard J. Borzynski

2/21/2005

University Biosafety Committee Minutes  
November 3, 2005

1. Introduction of Kelly Haidar, UBC facilitator, and Lee Zak, CIH, CSP.
2. Review of Minutes of Previous Biosafety meeting
3. Old business
  - a. Update on security camera installation. The cameras are functioning and software has been installed. Multiple levels of security are in place.
4. New business
  - a. Len Borzynski attended the ABSA Biosafety Conference.
  - b. The CDC submission of SA registration was completed.
  - c. Len Borzynski reported that the Laboratory Animal Facilities modified their Entrance/Exit and SOP into BEB 305 ABSL -2 laboratory so that entrance and exit is made through the shower out area.
  - d. Installation of Class III Biosafety Containment Hood has been completed
  - e. Air balancing of BL-3 Suite has been completed.
  - f. HVAC control system software is being evaluated, Alarm system in laboratory will be upgraded.
  - g. Dr. Collins has begun occupancy of room, equipment installation
  - h. Submitted protocols "Live/Dead Screens Using Barnase & A Group I Interon".and "Live/Dead Screens Using Barnase & A Group I Interon". of Dr. Disney was exempt under current NIH guidelines, review by Biosafety Officer.
  - i. "Array-based Methods to Identify Pathogens". Submitted by Dr. Matthew Disney was discussed. Committee discussed level of containment required. The strain of E. coli needed to be clarified. Approved with BL-2 containment pending strain clarification.
  - j. "Scalable culture for stem cell expansion and differentiation" submitted by Dr. Dr. E. Tzanakakis has been reviewed and is exempt under current NIH guidelines. The assigned containment level is BSL - 1 for mouse cell work and BSL- 2 when working with human cells.
  - k. "Structure/Function of Varicella zoster Virus DNA (Generation of Viral Mutants)" submitted by Dr. William T. Ruyechean was reviewed by the University Biosafety Committee. Questions arose source and nature of mutant strain of virus. Dr. Hay clarified work. A portion of the viral genome has been inserted into the cell line by Laboratory in Stanford. Work here is molecular biology, intact wild type virus is not used. Committee approved pending confirmation.. The assigned containment level is BSL 2, as human cell lines are to be used.
  - l. Discussion of Dr. Arlene Collins SARS Project
    - i. Update on Documents submission was given. A meeting with Dr. Karalus and Dr. Collins to discuss mutual use of space, and common protocols was held.
    - ii. Discussion of project submissions was held. More information is needed before committee can make a decision.

- iii. Committee discussed experience level of Dr. Collins. She has extensive virology experience, but should gain experience working at the BSL-3 level.
- iv. It was decided that Dr. Richard Karalus of Microbiology should participate in document review and discussion as advisor to the Committee.

## BIOSAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

May 9, 2006

2:10 – 4:18pm

*Present: Ken Tramposch, Sarah Gaffen, Margaret Hollingsworth, Paul Kostyniak, Tom Russo, Rich Wojcik, Len Borzynski, Joe Raab, Lee Zak, Kelly Haidar  
Rich Karalus (Guest)*

1. Report on CDC Inspection: All documents have been submitted. Awaiting final approval and arrival of Certificate.
2. BL3
  - a. Installation of HVAC failure alarms complete
  - b. Camera repaired, Network connection to be completed
  - c. SA research project completed; work activity in BL-3 is limited.
3. LAF is currently investigating the feasibility of a ABSL3 for rodents (mice, rats). They are working with facilities to evaluate conversion of a portion of the current ABSL- 2 facility in 305 BEB for possible upgrade. Len Borzynski (Biosafety Officer) has been involved. Funding is an issue.
4. An emergency response drill involving the BSL-3 laboratory has been scheduled for May 25<sup>th</sup>. This will be a table top exercise. EH&S is running the drill.
5. Len Borzynski will be training in the Canadian Heath High Containment Laboratory in Winnipeg next week.
6. The new list serve and web site was discussed and it was agreed that this will be useful to the UBC.
7. Notice of exempt research proposals:
  - a. Dr. Alfred Ponticelli, "Molecular Mechanisms of RNAPII Transcription"
8. Review of submitted research proposals
  - a. Dr. Kiong Ho, "Characterization of mRNA Capping apparatus in Trypanosome brucei"
    - i. Approved (BL-1)
  - b. Dr. Chunhao Li, "The Pathogenicity of Spirochetes"
    - i. More information required regarding a medical surveillance program. Proposal tabled.
  - c. Dr. Michael Caty, "Porcine Model of Community Acquired methicillin Resistant Staph Aureus".
    - i. Information regarding the nature of the isolates and potential treatment modalities needs to be provided to personnel in the event of a needle stick or other injury. Proposal approved as BSL-2, with stipulation that information be provided.
9. Review of Dr. Collins SARS Project:
  - a. Dr. Collins provided documents to the committee as requested at the February meeting. The Documents consisted of :
    - i. Biological Hygiene Plan
    - ii. Standard Operating Plans (SOPs)

iii. Training Manual

iv. Medical Surveillance Program

- b. The committee felt that the documents provided were not satisfactory. Numerous inconsistencies were pointed out. Some sections were obviously cut and pasted and not well integrated into the document. There were technical questions raised regarding the SOPs.
- c. The BL-3 experience of the group was a concern. It was felt that more hands on work should be acquired.
- d. The project was disapproved. Dr. Collins may reapply to the committee if these concerns are addressed.



Minutes of Biosafety Committee Meeting  
February 21, 2005

1. Minutes of the September 16, 2005 meeting were read and approved
2. Old business
  - a. UB's response to CDC questions was submitted and deemed satisfactory
  - b. Amendments to Certification were approved
3. New Business
  - a. BL-3 Update
    - i. Dr. Hay has been appointed BL-3 Director.
    - ii. Dr. Russo has agreed to function as Medical Advisor to the CUBRC Group.
    - iii. Video Cameras have been installed, and are being tested.
    - iv. A Class III Biosafety Cabinet has been ordered and will be installed upon arrival.
      1. A question regarding air balance was raised. The suite will be balanced and recertified after installation of this unit.
    - v. An independent HVAC failure alarm alerting the occupants is being investigated.
    - vi. A Department of Defense audit of the facility was conducted and found to be in compliance.
  - b. A system for integrating document review and storage of information of the IACUC, IRB and UBC is being investigated by CIT. Len Borzynski will be liaison for this group.
  - c. The need for more effective communications within the UBC was discussed. Len Borzynski will investigate the use of a listserv and secure website for UBC member use.
  - d. Len Borzynski has been appointed to the RPMCI Biosafety Committee, and will serve as an advisor to their IACUC
  - e. Review of proposals:
    - i. Dr. Murray Stinson : *Use of new antibiotics in treatment of Mycobacterium sp.*
      1. Approved with B1-2 containment requirements
    - ii. Dr. Mark O'Brian: *Heme and Iron Metabolism in Bartonella Sp.*
      1. Approved with BL-2 containment requirements
  - f. Dr. Irene Collins SARS Project
    - i. Dr. Collins submitted a grant to study SARS. UBC documents have been received.
    - ii. An extensive discussion of the need for further documentation occurred. It was determined that all manuals, SOPs, GOPs, Medical program must be submitted for review.
    - iii. Further discussion on the multiple use of the BSL-3 laboratory took place