

UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING

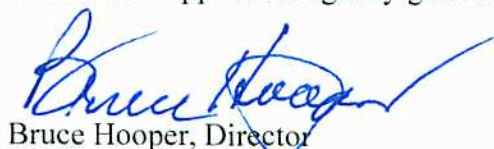
October 13, 2006

The Sunshine Project
P. O. Box 41987
Austin, TX 78704

RE: University of Wyoming
Institutional Biosafety Committee
Committee minutes: 2003 – 2006

Enclosed are the requested Committee minutes for the period 2003 – 2006. The request is being honored as a public information release even though the request was not received as such. The NIH Guideline request basis applies only to “research involving recombinant DNA molecules” and thusly not applicable to unrelated research and/or discussion. Additionally, request and application is in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act as applied to each federal agency and subsequent request under program and activities falling within their individual regulatory prevue.

The minutes supplied hereunder are in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act as it applies to public information held by public institutions and/or publicly funded activities in accord with applicable agency guidelines controlling such funding.



Bruce Hooper, Director
Risk Management, Insurance, Environmental Health and Safety
University of Wyoming

UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING

INSTITUTIONAL BIOSAFETY COMMITTEE

April 17, 2003

Animal Science/Molecular Biology Complex, Room 204

MEMBERS PRESENT: Madeline Dalrymple, Erin Denson, Rob George (Chair), I.J. Guthmann, Dale Isaak, Ted John, Geoff Letchworth and Mark Stayton.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Pam Langer and Don Roth.

ALSO PRESENT: Julie McGinnis and David White.

Chair George called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

Approval of minutes - George asked for approval of minutes from April 2, 2002. Letchworth made a motion to accept the minutes with second by Dalrymple. Motion carried.

New member and guest introductions - Erin Denison, and I.J. Guthmann are the new community representatives on the IBC (Vitas attached). David White was invited to explain his proposed research project. Julie McGinnis provides clerical assistance with the minutes.

OLD BUSINESS

USDA ARS Research Status

Letchworth reported the USDA ARS is inventorying pathogens and preparing security clearances. He reported about a boiler breakdown in the Arthropod-Borne Animal Diseases Research Laboratory (ABADRL) Biosafety Level 3 Ag facility (or "Round Building") that resulted in basement flooding when frozen pipes broke. Biosafety level 3 (BL3) conditions were maintained during the flooding as all excess water was processed before disposal. The water is now turned off and BL3 research temporarily halted. Biosafety level 2 (BL2) work is occurring in the Ag Building at the main UW campus. Funding has been received for the repairs, and some additional work on security needs will be done as well.

Upgrades to security will be made inside the building. They will know at all times who is in the building and where. The capability to contain pathogens will increase dramatically. All researchers will have security clearance. Select agent research will be conducted. They hope to return back to their ABADRL in October.

NEW BUSINESS

USDA ARS Leasing of Ag 6037

Letchworth presented a request to the IBC for approval for the USDA-ARS ABADRL to use the biosafety level 3 laboratory in Ag 6037 for research on BL3 agents vesicular stomatitis virus, West Nile virus, and Saint Louis encephalitis virus. See attached.

Dalrymple reported that Risk Management is concerned about assurances of responsibility.

Dick Mayer ABADRL Research Leader; Jerry Johnson, Chairman of Molecular Biology Department; and Dan Baccari, Vice President of Administration and Finance, were involved in creating the lease. The lease ends January 31, 2004.

There will be no animals or live insects. All work to be done in laminar flow hoods.

Letchworth pointed out that item 15 in the document "Request for permission to move some experiments from the ABADRL BSL-3 Ag facility to the ABADRL BSL-3 facility (Agriculture Building

room 6037) on the University of Wyoming campus" is incorrect. The facility has not been verified yet. ENV Services will certify adequate functioning of the HEPA filters on the exhaust air system.

Stayton asked if equipment is to be moved. Letchworth replied that only small equipment will be moved into the lab since the lab is already equipped with two biological safety cabinets, freezers, centrifuges, PCR machines, etc. Letchworth asked the IBC for an endorsement of the proposed move.

George asked for the motion. Dalrymple asked if the research should be approved at the same time as the move and lease. She asked White to outline what they want to do in the Ag lab. White explained his experiment. He will look at the possibility of recombination between the Saint Louis encephalitis virus and the West Nile Virus, and will co-infect cell cultures at a high multiplicity of infection. The proposal was given to each committee member. The virus and shipment is to be treated as a select agent although they are not select agents. No needles are to be used and it is not considered an inhalation hazard.

Stayton moved to approve the transportation and the study in the BSL3 lab, with second by Dalrymple. Discussion followed on whether this type of experiment had been discussed with peers in this field and if the virus is to be inactivated when it is shipped. White will check on the shipping.

Stayton amended the motion to approve the transport of only the inactive forms of the viruses. Dalrymple seconded. Discussion followed.

Isaak asked for clarification if the facility had certified for BL3 use by the USDA. Letchworth expects an APHIS inspector to look at the cabinet and lab. ENV Services has certified the cabinets at the Round Building.

Isaak made one motion to approve the ABADRL to move their research as proposed from the Round Building to Ag 6037 using the appropriate BL3 procedures. Prior to the move the facility will be inspected and certified to be operating at BL3. Guthmann seconded.

The second motion, by Stayton, was to approve the research protocols proposed with the caveat that the agent be inactivated prior to shipping to Pullman, Washington. Guthmann seconded.

Both motions carried. Letchworth abstained.

Approval of Beth Williams Pathogen Usage Proposal – Chronic Wasting Disease

The committee requested a copy of the abstract for review. Dalrymple will request more information from Beth Williams and send it to IBC members. The discussion and approval will be by e-mail. Stayton will be gone for the next three weeks, beginning tomorrow.

Letchworth commented that the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality is concerned about disposal through sewage treatment of materials possibly contaminated with CWD.

Select Agent Research at UW – Vet Science (Yersinia pestis, Francisella tularensis, Brucella melitensis, Brucella abortus)

Dalrymple updated the committee on select agent research at the University. Select agents are pathogens, such as bacteria, viruses and toxins, that the U.S. Government has determined might be used by a bioterrorist. In the past, Vet Science obtained these wildlife pathogens (that are now considered select agents) from samples submitted to the diagnostic laboratory. These agents are in small amounts and they have stored these for quite some time. Anyone who has access to these labs, including Bruce Hooper and Dalrymple, must be registered with the FBI and submit fingerprints. All researchers with access into the lab must register with the FBI and submit fingerprints. The research area must be secured and log all access. Inventory of select agents must be carefully monitored.

Letchworth said that the USDA has offered to let Vet Science put their select agents in their lab.

Letchworth asked if the IBC has approved with select agents. Dalrymple responded approval is required only when research is active or active.

George asked if there was any other business, and as there was none, he asked for a motion to adjourn. Guthmann moved to adjourn at 5:20 p.m., with second by Dalrymple. Motion carried.

Minutes submitted by Madeline Dalrymple.

UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING

INSTITUTIONAL BIOSAFETY COMMITTEE

March 30, 2004

Wyoming Union, Room 106 3:30 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Madeline Dalrymple, Erin Denson, Rob George (Chair), I.j. Guthmann, Dale Isaak, Ted John, Pam Langer, Geoff Letchworth, Ken Mills, and Mark Stayton.

ALSO PRESENT: Kim Shurter, Office Associate for Environmental Health and Safety.

Approval of minutes - Chairman George asked for approval of minutes from April 17, 2003. Letchworth made a motion to accept the minutes with second by Dalrymple. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

UW IBC Official Status

Dalrymple introduced this agenda item by stating there is no definition or description for the University of Wyoming Institutional Biosafety Committee (UW IBC) in University regulations, and no administrative representative attends meetings or is responsible for meeting minutes. Langer commented that the National Institutes of Health (NIH) requires the IBC to approve grants and expects it to be recognized as an "official committee" of the University. Committee members stated they did not want to serve on an unofficial committee on matters of potentially great importance, liability, and public safety. George made a motion for Dalrymple to draft a letter, forward it to the committee members for approval, and then send it to William Gern, Vice President of Research. A motion was also made that on May 1, 2004 the committee would disband if the University did not recognize in writing the UW IBC as an "official committee."

Motions carried.

USDA ARS Research Update

Letchworth reported the USDA ARS has not reoccupied the BSL3-Ag facility on Snowy Range Road. The USDA building was damaged last winter when water pipes burst and has been under repairs ever since. The USDA currently rents the biosafety level 3 lab in the UW Agriculture Building on a monthly basis to conduct biosafety level 3 lab work. The USDA did not seek federal approval to use select agents at the Agriculture Building location and so cannot conduct any research on select agents. Letchworth hopes that by the end of April the BSL3 facility on Snowy Range Road will be up and running. Johnson Controls is contracted to install and maintain the facility's controls.

The USDA facility is currently decontaminated and available for touring. Dalrymple will arrange dates and times for the IBC to tour the USDA facility.

Select Agent Research Status

Dalrymple stated Vet Science is preparing a lab for select agent research. Mills commented that after a freezer is moved in and the negative airflow is confirmed the lab will be ready to be approved for use.

Dalrymple reminded the IBC that research on pathogens including select agent research requires IBC review. An Infectious Pathogen form must be submitted to the committee for review and approval.

Chronic Wasting Disease Research at UW

Dalrymple started the discussion by stating Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) research in animals requires biosafety level 2 animal facilities, which are enclosed rooms like a laboratory but sturdy enough to handle animals. UW has very few Biosafety Level 2 animal facilities. Any research associated with the University, including research conducted on University property by cooperating agencies, must follow standard practices.

Dalrymple reminded the committee that the IBC approved Dr. Beth Williams's Chronic Wasting Disease research contingent on no Chronic Wasting Disease being introduced into animals at the University of Wyoming. However it appears that Williams is holding animals infected with Chronic Wasting Disease at UW facilities. No UW animal facilities were approved by the IBC for holding animals with Chronic Wasting Disease. Dalrymple added that the EPA is concerned about Chronic Wasting Disease contaminated materials entering the environment. IBC members discussed whether Red Buttes and other UW locations used by Wyoming Game and Fish may be holding animals infected with Chronic Wasting Disease. After some discussion Chairman George proposed a motion that the IBC notify Williams of the IBC's concerns, confirm if infected animals are being held at UW, and if so, where infected animals are being held. Additionally, researchers involved in pathogen research at UW need to be reminded that the IBC requires regular updates on their research using pathogens.

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

IBC Training (Attachment)

Dalrymple handed out information for a NIH website on IBC's and training for IBC members. Dalrymple suggested IBC members could attend NIH sponsored training sessions to ensure members of the IBC are current and educated on IBC functions and standard practices.

IBC Review Protocol

Dalrymple introduced this agenda topic by reminding members that the UW IBC previously decided to meet once a year and conduct reviews throughout the year by e-mail. Dalrymple thought that the IBC decided all members available had to review Biosafety Level 3, and at least 3 members review Biosafety Level 2 protocols for an expedited review. However, she could not find this protocol described in past minutes.

Institutional Biosafety Committee Meeting Minutes

March 30, 2004

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She asked the committee to re-address this procedure and consider other review procedures and how many meetings to hold in a year.

It was decided that expedited review e-mail messages will be open to all committee members and that Kim Shurter will make a copy of IBC email correspondence and keep them in a book for the committee along with the yearly minutes of the meetings. All members available are asked to participate in the review and approval of Biosafety Level 3 research. The IBC will continue holding yearly meetings and may decide to hold additional meetings if needed.

West Nile Virus and Sage Grouse Project: IBC Decision

On March 24 Dr. Todd Cornish provided Letchworth, Denson, and Dalrymple a tour of the BL3 animal room intended for the proposed research. Letchworth used the animal biosafety level 3 requirements described in the BMBL (Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories, CDC, NIH) for a basis of review. All issues listed by the BMBL had been addressed. HEPA filtered PAPR's (powered air purifying respirators) and negative room pressure will be used to minimize the risk of breathing infected aerosols from infected animals. The IBC agreed it was critical that the proper airflow is confirmed before research with infected animals may commence.

A motion was made to approve the research, contingent on demonstrating the room has negative air pressure and the HEPA filters are tested. Dalrymple will contact Dr. Todd Cornish with the concerns of the committee and work with the physical plant engineers. Once the negative airflow is confirmed, the committee will be notified for a final approval.

Sunshine Project

Dalrymple informed the IBC that a watchdog group, The Sunshine Project, asked for minutes of the IBC and for information on whether select agents were held and studied at UW. The correspondence letters were handed to members. George thought that the response should have been much more open and inquiring.

George asked if there was any other business, and there was none. A motion to adjourn was made and seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 4:50 PM.

Minutes prepared by Kim Shurter and Madeline Dalrymple. Minutes submitted by Madeline Dalrymple.

UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING

INSTITUTIONAL BIOSAFETY COMMITTEE

April 5, 2005

Wyoming Union, Room 202, 2:10 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Madeline Dalrymple, Erin Denson, Rob George (Chair), I.J. Guthmann, Ted John, Pam Langer, Ken Mills, and Mark Stayton.

ALSO PRESENT: Kim Shurter, Office Associate for Environmental Health and Safety.

Approval of minutes - Chairman George asked for approval of minutes from March 30, 2004. All approved. In the future, minutes will be distributed by e-mail for approval prior to them being submitted to the NIH.

OLD BUSINESS

UW IBC Official Status

The IBC now has "Official Status". Dalrymple brought a copy of the UNIREG for anyone wishing to see a copy of the description of the committee.

USDA ARS Research Update-(March 24, 2005 e-mail from Geoff Letchworth)

The status of the ARS facilities is mixed. Two-thirds of the Round Building is operating very well as a BSL-2 laboratory. The other third is empty pending renovation and certification as a BSL-3 laboratory with two BSL-3 small animal rooms. He hopes the renovation will begin in April and be done this summer. One room in the future BSL-3 area has already been certified as a select agent storage area and we will seek full select agent certification for the entire renovated BSL-3 lab. The Round Building was BSL-3Ag under the old rules but it will be only BSL-3 under the new rules. This is not expected to have negative consequences for the research. The BSL-3Ag large animal building is scheduled for minor repairs and a new roof. Dr. Letchworth expects these repairs to be completed by summer. Following repairs, they will seek certification as a BSL-3Ag and select agent facility for large animals.

Select Agent Research Status

Dalrymple brought the results of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention inspection of the proposed select agent laboratory in Vet Science. The February 11, 2005 Facility Inspection Report lists 42 facility deficiencies. Five were on the facility itself. The rest of the deficiencies concerned plans, inspections, procedures, and lack of documentation for training for those approved for access to the lab. Environmental Health and Safety and Vet Science are currently working to remedy the deficiencies. The inspection report will be used to make a better select agent program.

Chronic Wasting Disease Research at UW

The committee decided to ask for an accounting of CWD research at UW because of the untimely death of the main researcher. Dalrymple will contact Dr. Jean Jewell for a

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April 5, 2005

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complete inventory, location of CWD infected animals, and for the current plan for the research. The committee wants to ensure that the appropriate facilities are being used.

IBC Training

Dalrymple reminded the committee of the availability of IBC training classes.

IBC Review Protocol

Dalrymple stated that the review of protocol has been running smoothly and thanked everyone for their input.

NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Jun Ren submitted a protocol titled "Recombinant DNA research-Viral Gene Transfer of Endothelial Nitric Oxide Synthase (NOS), Superoxide Dismutas (SOD and Insulin-Like Growth Factor-1 (IGF-1) Ventricular Contractile Function." The research studies cardiovascular health. Dr. Ren submitted the protocol for the committee to assess his proposed research and to see if the IBC had major concerns. The committee decided to ask Dr. Ren a number of questions. The committee wants to know if the adenovirus will be tested to assure it is replication deficient? The committee wants a summary of the experiments, how many animals will be involved, and justification for the research. Currently there is no facility designated for the research, which concerns the IBC. Dalrymple will relay the concerns to Dr. Ren before he starts writing his final proposals.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 2:55 PM.

Minutes prepared by Kim Shurter and Madeline Dalrymple. Minutes submitted by Madeline Dalrymple.

UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING

INSTITUTIONAL BIOSAFETY COMMITTEE

April 6, 2006, 2:00 PM

Animal Science Molecular Biology Building, Room 202

MEMBERS PRESENT: Madeline Dalrymple, Erin Denson, Rob George (Chair), I.J. Guthmann, Ted John, Pam Langer, Ken Mills, Mark Stayton, Dale Isaak, Charles Stith.

ALSO PRESENT: Kim Shurter, Office Associate for Environmental Health and Safety.

CHANGES TO COMMITTEE: Charles Stith replacing Geoff Letchworth who retired.

Approval of minutes - Minutes of April 5, 2005 were approved in May 2005 prior to their submittal to the NIH.

OLD BUSINESS

USDA ARS Research Update-

Stith reported renovations of the USDA Arthropod-Borne Animal Disease Research Laboratory (ABADRL) had been under way for about 30 days. Many research projects planned to be complete by the senior researchers this year could not be completed because they didn't have an adequate facility. One room is approved for storing select agents. They are not approved to take select agents out of that room. They have two biosafety level 2 (BL2) laboratories online.

The large animal isolation building is not online. However all security for this building was completed two years ago and approved by Homeland Security and the Department of Justice.

Chronic Wasting Disease Research at UW

Dalrymple reported that Dr. Jean Jewell is still conducting research on chronic wasting disease in animals. Last year's research included deer. One animal containment facility currently houses cattle that were exposed to CWD 8-9 years ago. The cattle are not showing any signs of chronic wasting disease. This is a 10 year project. Dalrymple was asked to contact Dr. Jean Jewell and email the IBC a summary of current CWD research and the status of facilities currently and previously used to house any CWD positive animals.

Dr. Jun Ren Protocol Update

Last year Dr. Jun Ren asked the IBC to review his proposed research entitled "Viral Gene Transfer of Endothelial Oxide Synthase, Superoxide Dismutase, and Insulin-like Growth Factor on Ventricular Contractile Function." Dalrymple reported that Dr. Ren wasn't planning to initiate research until an animal facility was identified for his project. Ren has not submitted a project for review this year.

Select Agent Research Status

The Vet Science select agent laboratory in the west Laramie campus was approved by the CDC in August 2005. Current research involves *Brucella abortus*. Mills reported that at this time

Source: IBC Archive | The Sunshine Project - FOI Fund | www.sunshine-project.org
the graduate students working with *Brucella* are identifying animals that are potentially positive, and isolating *Brucella* from tissue. The next step will be fingerprinting or hoof-printing the isolates (identification by visualization of the repetitive component of genomic DNA) and they will be working in that laboratory preparing those samples.

IBC Review Protocol

Dalrymple stated that very few proposals have been submitted for review this year. She recognized that this could be due to a lack of new proposals requiring IBC review, or possibly because some researchers might not know they need to submit a protocol for a particular project and may have bypassed the submission process. The committee proposed to address this potential inadequacy as follows:

Suggestions included emailing UW scientists about once a quarter to remind them of the necessity of submitting proposals for review.

The committee decided to survey UW laboratory researchers to document what is in their current biological inventories. Also suggested was the creation of a database on a website for PI's and individual labs to maintain such an inventory. Data to collect would include species and other biological agents of concern. The survey should cover all biological laboratories and there should be a consequence for not responding. The BMBL guidelines of biological containment might be mentioned to describe the safety practices a laboratory should be using.

Dalrymple will put together a survey and send it to the IBC for feedback before sending on to the campus.

The IBC would focus on departments conducting biological projects: Biology, Pharmacy, Zoology and Physiology, Botany, Chemistry, and departments in the College of Agriculture including Molecular Biology. The IBC wanted a survey design to allow for easy reply by researchers and follow up by the IBC. It was hoped a simple survey would encourage more response.

NEW BUSINESS

Sunshine Project

The Sunshine project requested IBC minutes from Bruce Hooper, Director of Risk Management. Dalrymple reported Bruce Hooper was in the process of politely informing the Project that UW will not be providing the requested materials. The IBC agreed that the matter is of no further concern to the committee right now.

Andrews Lab

Isaak asked if it was possible for the committee to write a letter of support to the Vice President of Research, Bill Gern, to complete the remodel Dr. Gerald Andrews' biosafety level 3 (BL3) laboratory to a select agent laboratory in the Agriculture Building. Isaak suggested the IBC write the letter under the context for Andrews and then make it broader by stating that there is not a single facility of this nature on campus where select agent research can be conducted. Isaak volunteered to draft a letter and send it to Dalrymple to submit to the IBC for input before sending to Dr. Bill Gern, Vice President of Research.

IBC suggestions for the letter included mentioning that some lab equipment in this laboratory was funded by the State Health Laboratory and was expected to be available for state wide surveillance in an emergency involving select agents. Another suggestion for the letter was to mention that funding would have to be turned back because a facility was not available.

Alternately, UW would not be eligible for certain research because of a lack of appropriate facilities. Recruiting new faculty is difficult with a lack of facilities.

Isaak will discuss this with Andrews before he drafts a letter.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 3:10 PM.

Minutes prepared by Kim Shurter and Madeline Dalrymple. Minutes submitted by Madeline Dalrymple.