Institutional Biosafety Committee  
December 13, 2006  

Meeting Minutes  

Members Present: William Courchesne, John Cushman, Kenneth Hunter, Mike Kivistik, Ben Owens, Roger Van Andel  

Absent: Arthur Di Salvo, Sha Liao  

Others Present: Mary Macdonald  

The meeting was called to order by Courchesne at 10:34 a.m.  

Copies of the agenda were distributed.  

1. Courchesne introduced Roger Van Andel, the new Director of Laboratory Animal Care Services, who will be replacing Richard Simmonds on the IBC. Tom Swan also retired during the summer and his replacement, Anette Rink, will be joining IBC at the April 2007 meeting.  

Jon Hansen, Risk Manager for NSHE, was able to assure off-campus committee members regarding the service of volunteers to state agencies that NRS 41.0349 requires the state to afford its volunteers indemnification for their acts or omissions in furtherance of state business, as long as those acts were done in good faith and under the control and direct supervision of the State. As a result, Art Di Salvo has agreed to rejoin as a member of the IBC and will attend the February 2007 meeting.  

2. Meeting Minutes – 25 October 2006. Cushman asked that his motion to accept “as is” for MOUA B2006-15 on page 3 be reworded to “… as amended …” and Kivistik also indicated that discussion after the meeting changed his assignment for checking on bloodborne pathogen training and records. Hunter motioned for approval with changes which was approved by the group.  

3. Report on Select Agent compliance – Owens reported that CDC performed a site visit at the Southern Nevada Public Health Laboratory (SNPHL) in Las Vegas on December 6, 2006, for the purpose of registration renewal and no deficiencies were noted. EH&S staff had performed a quarterly inspection prior to the site visit and provided the required select agent training and scenario exercises that test the three select agent plans. Hunter asked how many people are approved to handle select agents at SNPHL and Owens responded only seven.  

Owens said EH&S provided training and required exercises for the staff at the Nevada State Public Health Laboratory (NSPHL) on the Reno campus and will follow up with one more inspection before the end of the year. Thomas Kozel
will begin using the NSPHL facilities soon to begin the project described in the MOUA that he submitted last year.

4. Report on OSHA BBP citation – Owens gave a brief summary for Van Andel about the OSHA situation that developed in October. Owens and the Vice Provost, Jannet Vreeland, met with OSHA staff last week and explained what steps had been taken to resolve the problems cited by OSHA, both for laboratories and non-laboratory areas. The OSHA representatives were satisfied and agreed to reduce the fine by 40%. It was noted that the initial citation was issued to UNR as a whole and concern about a repeat violation anywhere on campus initiated a request to have the citation written for a specific department, Microbiology, which everyone agreed to. The Department of Microbiology also decided that they will provide bloodborne pathogen training and offer the vaccination to all Microbiology employees.

After the October IBC meeting, it was agreed that Kivistik would survey laboratories with existing MOUAs, talk to PI’s and ask to look at their training records, etc. Brenner sent a memorandum to PIs asking for laboratories to participate in EH&S training. Courchesne said the laboratories need to make an effort to know what tissues or samples they have stored and to do the necessary paperwork or provide training for staff to meet any requirements/regulations to work with these substances.

Kivistik will review Steven St. Jeor’s MOUA to see if it includes working with human cells and will request and update if needed.

Courchesne mentioned that the Laboratory Safety Committee developed a policy to have Departments conduct at least annual inspections of laboratories within their areas. Group compliance may work better than having individual PIs responsible for laboratory inspections.

5. Report on status of campus compliance with BBP Standard – Owens updated that Kivistik surveyed laboratories and on-campus clinics for their bloodborne pathogen compliance records. He sent out a brief questionnaire to the laboratories and reviewed training records, vaccination status, location of records and whether proper labeling was performed in the laboratories. A few laboratories had deficiencies but most were satisfactory and only two were found to be non-compliant. Kivistik will work further with those two laboratories to bring them into compliance. Even though on-campus clinics do not submit MOUAs to IBC, Kivistik still reviewed their areas and a few still need to be contacted.

Owens said between October 17th and December 7th, EH&S had provided BBP training to 118 people. Van Andel said he would be providing non-human primate training on January 22, 2007, and Owens and Kivistik indicated they would like to attend. Owens suggested that any training offered to laboratory personnel be documented. John Davis, Training Coordinator in EH&S, spoke
with non-laboratory areas, such as, Lombardi Recreation Center, Facility Services, Fire Science Academy, Child and Family Research Center, Lawlor Events Center, and UNR Police Services. Most have been receiving training through EH&S. UNR Police Services all have record of initial training but do not have a consistent program for annual review. Owens indicated that David Lupan, Senior Associate Dean in the School of Medicine, contacted him about providing training to Las Vegas staff. Owens said UNR has many personnel located in Las Vegas through the School of Medicine, Cooperative Extension, etc., and we currently do not have a safety person at that location. Obviously, there is still work to be done but hopefully an on-line refresher can be developed to assist with refresher training.

6. MOUA reviews – B2006-17 and B2006-18

B2006-17 – P.I.: Dean J. Burkin, Ph.D.
Submitted: November 1, 2006

Hunter said it was well written but even though he has listed the BSL2 agents under section 1, they need to be listed under the Biological Agent Inventory in section 10 with the additional information requested. Kivistik asked for clarification about where the biosafety cabinet is because it is not shown on the map.

Hunter moved to approve, Cushman seconded approval as amended, which was unanimously approved.

B2006-18 – P.I.: Gary J. Blomquist
Submitted: December 1, 2006

Courchesne said the MOUA looked good. Hunter noted that a biosafety cabinet is referred to in the text but not marked in section 4. Cushman said room numbers are missing in section 9 and that the location of autoclaves that will be used must be indicated, either on the map or in the text.

Cushman moved to approve as amended, which was seconded by Hunter and unanimously approved.

B2006-19 – P.I.: Mary Peacock
Submitted: December 8, 2006

Courchesne did not put this MOUA on the list to be reviewed because he hadn’t received it until yesterday. Kivistik indicated it just came in on 12-8-06 so he didn’t expect it to be reviewed. Cushman said he had looked it over and suggested someone show the PI a sample MOUA because too much information was lacking. Kivistik was asked to return the MOUA to the PI with a sample and ask her to resubmit.
Draft IBC Procedure review – Courchesne said a draft of the UNR IBC Operating Procedures was submitted to the Vice President for Research (Linda Brinkley) in March 2003, but she never responded. Courchesne incorporated suggestions from the last meeting into the new operating procedures draft that he forwarded last week to the committee for review and comments.

There was discussion about the IBC membership and noted that the Chair and Biosafety Officer need to be in attendance to have an official meeting, as noted on page 4, section VI, A, 3. Number 4 indicates alternates can be designated for the Chair or BSO in the event of an extended absence or emergency situation. Owens clarified that while he is the Interim Director of EH&S, Kivistik has been assigned responsibility to review the MOUAs as the Acting BSO for the IBC, but Owens will still try to attend the meetings as often as he can.

Hunter said when all of the forms are set up in an electronic format the IACUC, IBC and ALAC will have some overlap. As it is now, some overlap exists by having a few committee members serve on both committees.

Kivistik explained that with the exception of high hazard work, research work involving biological agents doesn’t stop while waiting for a MOUA submission and approval; however, IACUC approval must be granted before animal work can begin. Hunter asked for clarification about having a certain level of research, such as BSL1 or mouse tissues, approved by the BSO and Chair without full committee review. Courchesne indicated that special reviews and approvals can be handled outside the formal committee meeting, i.e., via email, and that has occurred before. He hasn’t seen a situation where it would be a benefit to only have the Chair or BSO do a review without the IBC involvement. Kivistik noted that annual reviews without changes or when someone just has a minor change similar to adding an organism to their list are approved by the Chair and BSO without being brought before the IBC. Hunter asked that this procedure be added as a new bullet to section VI, section B on page 4 of 6 but Cushman thought minor revisions was already covered under bullet 8 on page 5 of 6 and that only annual review procedures needed to be added.

Cushman asked that section A. Membership, on page 2 of 6, item c. be expanded to say “Animal and animal pathogen containment principles” to be consistent with item b. Cushman also asked if someone with Human expertise should be included on the IBC and Owens indicated the Di Salvo is an M.D. and previous Director of the NSHL, so he would have that expertise.

Owens motioned to approve with minor changes, which was seconded by Hunter and unanimously approved.

Courchesne will make the changes and submit it to VPR Brenner for his review and approval before it is forwarded to the Provost’s Office for final approval.
8. Update on Freezer Farm – Owens showed a copy of an electronic map that has been developed labeling items in the Freezer Farm located at the SOM. It was suggested that a similar mapping be done at Fleischmann Agriculture.

Hunter said this type of mapping will be very beneficial for first responders in case of an emergency and they can use appropriate response for the worst case scenario for the items listed. Owens mentioned that only BSL2 or lower items are kept in the freezer farm location. Anything BSL3 should be either in the freezers at the NSHL or in the BSL3 laboratory in FA.

The next meeting of IBC is scheduled for Wednesday, February 7, 2007, at 10:30 a.m. in ARF 213.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:06 p.m.