

**Los Alamos National Laboratory  
Institutional Biosafety Committee Meeting  
June 14, 2005**

**HRL Library**

**Welcome and Introductory Remarks: Mark MacInnes, Chair**

Members present: William Brady, Glenn Funk, Robert Hipwood, Richard Honsinger, Cheryl Lemanski, Mark MacInnes, James Pannucci, Charles Pergler, Christy Ruggiero, Dina Sassone, and Tamas Torok.

Members participating by teleconference: David Bruce.

Guest: Paul Gilna, Acting Division Director, Biosciences Division.

Mark MacInnes welcomed all, including the new members: Jim Pannucci and Christy Ruggiero. Paul Gilna gave a brief welcome and thank you to the IBC.

**Previous minutes' review and approval**

There were no further changes to the minutes of the June 14, 2005 provided to the committee. Glenn moved to accept the minutes as written. Cheryl Lemanski seconded. Minutes were approved.

**Discussion of Revised IBC Procedures**

Mark MacInnes went over the memo sent to the previous Acting Biosciences Division Leader regarding proposed changes to the LANL IBC procedures. He stated that meetings had been held with the PIs to help facilitate and streamline the process for IBC review and approval of applications. Significant changes proposed are: 3-year approval of applications, IBC reviews of proposals prior to meetings now 2 weeks, and implementation of member rotation. The committee then went over the suggested changes to the IBC procedure. Changes agreed upon by the committee will be reflected in a new draft, to be provided to the IBC for review.

**Principle Investigator presentations (5 min presentations, 5 min Q&A)**

The PI provided a brief summary of his proposed work, entitled "Lifespan of Epstein-Barr Virus Transformed Human B-Lymphocytes" and answered questions from the committee and the public.

Roger Snodgrass, a member of the public, asked for clarification regarding expected outcomes and need of the research. The PI explained that he is comparing actual B-cell chromosomes against a mathematical model that makes an assumption of length of structures at the end of chromosomes. The question he is trying to address: "Does the length of the life of our immune system depend on the length of these chromosome-end structures?" Roger also asked about our closed sessions, and how we are doing regarding the NIH guidelines. Mark MacInnes provided explanations for both issues, including how minutes are to be posted to the public website, and that we are following the NIH guidance for IBC minutes.

**Discussion and votes on application**

The IBC voted to approve at BSL-2 with conditions.

### **Discussion of IBC review process (All)**

Review of all projects, regardless of level, will be done in accordance with LANL and NIH requirements for IBC review and approval.

### **Discussion of Biological Emergency Response Procedures (Sassone)**

Dina Sassone went over the current changes, and upcoming changes to the LANL Biosafety procedures regarding emergency response to biological spills and events.

### **Discussion of length of service on committee for current members (MacInnes)**

Mark MacInnes discussed the member-length-of-service on the IBC as having three components. 1) The public (non-LANL) members currently have no time limitations on their service. 2) The LANL Biosafety Officer has no service time limit, and the Medical Director of LANL serves indefinitely, as well. 3) The LANL technical staff member service period is currently three (3) years, subject to renewal by re-appointment and concurrence by their relevant Line Management.

Currently, one LANL member is in their final year of service - Mr. David Bruce. Ms. Cheryl Lemanski has now finished her three year service period and must obtain Division Management re-appointment to continue IBC service.

Charles Pergler commented on the public member service. He suggested that public members should consider service limitation, to keep a fresh, non-entrenched community perspective on the IBC, particularly for credibility to the community skeptical of all biological work at LANL. Other members indicated that this notion deserves further consideration.

Jim Pannucci discussed the utility of a 'Vice-Chair' member designee, as the IBC Chair is sometimes absent or otherwise unable to lead the Committee due to a conflict. A Vice Chair could lead the meetings at those times. Tamas Torok commented that the vice-Chair could become the *de facto* the next Chairperson. The Chairperson could also serve as past Chair for a year (or more) following his third year term. The BSO currently assumes the function of leading meetings when the Chair is absent. These ideas will receive further consideration.

### **Adjourn**

Meeting was adjourned at 12:00.