

To: University of Washington Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC)
From: Dr. David W. Emery, Chair
Subject: IBC Meeting Agenda (ad hoc)
Date: Friday, February 8, 2008
Time: 3:00 – 4:00 pm
Location: Health Sciences Building, Room T269

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES from January 25, 2008 IBC Meeting

3. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS
“*The Host Response to Virus Infection – West Nile Virus*” - Dr. Michael
Gale

4. ISSUES FROM THE FLOOR

Institutional Biosafety Committee
FINAL Meeting Minutes
February 08, 2008

FINAL
University of Washington
Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC)

Date: Friday, February 08, 2008
Time: 3:00-3:15pm
Location: Health Sciences Building, Room T269

Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Michael Agy, Washington National Primate Research Center
Thea Brabb, Comparative Medicine
Paul Swenson, Community Member, Seattle-King Co. Dept of Public Health
David Emery, Medical Genetics
Mary Lampe, Laboratory Medicine
Stephen Libby, Laboratory Medicine
Scott Meschke, Environmental Health
David Russell, Hematology
Eric Stefansson, Environmental Health & Safety

Members Absent: William Atkins, Medicinal Chemistry
Sara Mackenzie, Employee Health Clinic-UW Campus
Rose Ann Cattolico, Biology
Kimball Jones, Community Member
Carol Sibley, Genome Sciences
Valerie Yerkes, Community Member
Pamela Morris, Comparative Medicine
Estella Whimbey, Healthcare Epidemiology and Infection Control

Guests: JoAnn Kauffman, Research & Biological Safety
Linda Arnesen, Research & Biological Safety

1. CALL TO ORDER

David Emery, called the meeting to order at 3:05 pm

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES from January 25, 2008 IBC Meeting

Meeting minutes for January 25, 2008 are to be amended to reflect that Mary Lampe abstained from voting on the approval of Walter Stamm's project, "Horizontal Gene Transfer in Chlamydia." The minutes were approved unanimous by the committee.

3. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

"The Host Response to Virus Infection – West Nile Virus" – Dr. Michael Gale

- Dave Emery briefly summarized the proposal and issue involving the containment level for animal research with West Nile virus. Eric Stefansson discussed the written subcommittee report that had been distributed to committee members ahead of the meeting. After a brief discussion, Dave Emery proposed that Dr. Gale's animal work with WNV should be approved at ABSL2 with 3 practices. Appropriate space (possibly room G155A), will be secured to allow his work to proceed. Strict adherence to BSL3 practices will be observed with particular attention to use of sharps and the grinding of harvested tissues.

4. ISSUES FROM THE FLOOR

- None

Meeting Adjourned at 3:15pm.

Meeting Minutes by LA

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February 4, 2008

TO: Dr. D. Emery, Chairman of the University of Washington IBC.

FROM: IBC Subcommittee: E. Stefansson, T. Brabb, S. Meschke, S. Libby

SUBJECT: Review of containment level for animal research with West Nile Virus.

Purpose: To review hazards associated with performing animal research in mice with West Nile Virus (WNV). A previous IBC subcommittee recommended BSL2 containment with BSL3 practices for in vitro work and ABSL3 containment for animal research. This was approved by the IBC on 2/02/07. Currently, the only ABSL-3 space available is shared with a researcher conducting M. tuberculosis research. This places an additional hazard to Dr. Gale's research staff. This subcommittee was charged with determining if the animal work associated with this research could be safely conducted at ABSL2 with 3 practices. This review focused on three major points:

1) Potential to transmit virus or infect by an aerosol route: Several references were discussed that demonstrated successfully establishing infection in laboratory animals (mice and hamsters) by aerosolizing WNV. No supporting evidence of direct mouse to mouse transmission exists. Also, a 1980 study cited in the BMBL makes a reference to potential aerosol transmission in a lab acquired infection but does not state if via respiratory route or direct skin/mucous membrane contact. There were two documented cases of laboratory acquired infection with WNV In 2002, both through percutaneous inoculation.

2) Potential to shed virus in urine or feces of experimentally infected mice: Several studies cite shedding of virus in urine of experimentally infected hamsters, there are no references for recovering WNV in the urine or feces of infected mice. Also, these studies looked for viral RNA and not viable WNV.

3) Review of viral titer in experimentally infected mice: WNV is a neurotropic virus and experimentally infected mice have a transient viremia of several days after injection. The virus eventually reaches low numbers in the peripheral blood. Viral titers in mice in peripheral blood are considerably lower than found in birds and, in general, mammals are considered dead end hosts for arthropod transmission of this virus.

Recommendation:

Dr. Gale's animal work with WNV should be approved at ABSL2 with 3 practices. Appropriate space (possibly room G155A) will be secured to allow his work to proceed. Strict adherence to BSL3 practices will be observed with particular attention to use of sharps and the grinding of harvested tissues.