

Institutional Biosafety Committee Annual Report, 2006-2007

Project Review Activities

The IBC met every other month during the fiscal year 2006-2007. There were 173 approved research projects as of June 30, 2007. The two main classifications of rDNA projects are 1) Exempt from the NIH guidelines (Class F) and 2) Non-Exempt Projects (classified as Class D or E). IBC is also responsible for review and approval of projects with Biohazards. The break down of approved projects on file with the IBC is as follows:

Non – Exempt:	Class D	49
	Class E	59
Exempt:	Class F	58
BIOHAZARDOUS Only Projects		8

The Chair of the IBC and the Biosafety Officer conduct the review of Exempt projects, and issue approval, which is reported to the IBC at a subsequent meeting. Non-Exempt projects are assigned for review by a subcommittee of three members and approval is issued by the full committee at a convened meeting. Approvals are granted for a period of three years and are contingent upon the successful completion of an annual update (annual questionnaire). Annual questionnaires and MUA amendments are reviewed by the Chair and Biosafety Officer; significant changes to the project require the submission of a new MUA application for approval by the full committee. The following table indicates the breakdown of projects submitted for review during year 2006-2007.

New Non Exempt Projects	43
New Exempt Projects	18
New Biohazardous Only Projects	7
Renewals:	
Annual Questionnaires – Nonexempt/Exempt	133
Amendments	18

The IBC receives protocols from researchers at all Ithaca based Cornell colleges, the Geneva Agricultural Experiment Station, the Baker Institute for Animal Health, as well as the Boyce Thompson Institute for Plant Research and the USDA, ARS laboratories (See table below for breakdown of MUA's submitted by college).

Department	College	MUA's
Animal Science	CALS	6
Applied & Engineering Physics	College of Engineering	1
Baker Institute for Animal Health		7
Biological & Env. Engineering	CALS	3
Biomedical Engineering	College of Engineering	1
Biomedical Sciences	College of Veterinary Medicine	10
Boyce Thompson Institute		5
Chemical & Biomolecular Eng.	College of Engineering	3
Chemistry & Chemical Biology	College of Arts & Sciences	7
Civil & Environmental Eng.	College of Engineering	1
Clinical Sciences	College of Veterinary Medicine	2
Crop & Soil Sciences	CALS	3
Ecology & Evol. Biology	College of Arts & Sciences	2
Entomology	CALS	1
Entomology - Geneva	CALS	5
Food Science	CALS	2
Food Science - Geneva	CALS	3
Horticultural Sciences - Geneva	CALS	3
Horticulture	CALS	2
Microbiology	CALS	5
Microbiology & Immunology	College of Veterinary Medicine	12
Molecular Biology & Genetics	College of Arts & Sciences	11
Molecular Biology & Genetics	CALS	16
Molecular Medicine	College of Veterinary Medicine	8
Neurobiology & Behavior	College of Arts & Sciences	3
Nutritional Sciences	CALS	1
Nutritional Sciences	Human Ecology	3
Physics	College of Arts & Sciences	2
Plant Biology	CALS	11
Plant Breeding & Genetics	CALS	8
Plant Pathology	CALS	12
Plant Pathology - Geneva	CALS	5
Pop. Medicine & Diag. Science	College of Veterinary Medicine	8
Quality Milk Production Svc.	College of Veterinary Medicine	1

There are currently over 605 laboratories (rooms) conducting research at Biosafety levels BL1, BL2 or BL3: the breakdown according to biosafety level is as follows: (330) laboratories operating at BL1; (154) laboratories operating at BL 2; (117) BL2-P level greenhouses/growth chambers and (4) laboratories operating at BL 3.

Other Activities of the IBC:

Protocol Submission

Work continues on the development and refinement of the web based submission database.

The IBC system was reviewed as part of an internal IT audit and four medium risk issues were identified. These issues were remedied by staff from the Research Administration Information Services (RAIS) group. A more formal change management process was instituted. Encryption was enabled. New language was included in the questionnaire and amendment form to instruct PI's to review the key personnel with access to their MUA's to ensure timely deprovisioning of users. IBC system documentation will be enhanced as part of a broader disaster recovery/business continuity effort.

An Amendments Module was implemented. The form is largely identical in function and behavior to the Annual Questionnaire form, the difference being an Amendment can be generated by the user at any time whereas the Annual Questionnaire is generated each year.

Various reporting tools were created to assist in quantifying IBC workloads and to sort by MUA classification, lab #, security level etc.

Development of Guidance Documents

The following documents have been written and approved and will be placed on the IBC website.

Frequently Asked Questions
Guide to the NIH Guidelines
Guidance on the Use of Lentiviral-Based Vectors

The following document is still in developmental stage and will be brought to committee for approval.

Guidance on the Use of Human, Primate, and Mammalian Cell Lines

Website Development

The IBC web site address has changed to www.ibc.cornell.edu and the site was updated to comply with university web design guidelines. The site is now supported by RAIS. Updating and adding new content to the site is on-going.

Other Issues

The Office of Research and Integrity Assurance is now fully staffed and under the directorship of E. Ray Stinson, Assistant Vice President for Research Compliance. This office reports to the Vice Provost for Research. One full time administrative position will continue to support the IBC. Debra Dwyer was hired in this position in January 2007. Additional support will come from Maria Golonski the former Institutional Biosafety Administrator who was promoted to Process Improvement Auditor in September 2006. The Education Coordinator for ORIA, Matthew Aldridge joined the staff in September 2006. Matthew will work with the IBC to develop training modules (both on line and personal training sessions) for the PI, laboratory staff and department administration

The IBC continues to meet the second Thursday of the even months, from 12 noon to 2:30 p.m.

Oversight of research involving field release of genetically modified organisms has been transferred from CALS administration to the IBC. The IBC administrator has observed the APHIS site inspection at the Geneva campus.

A Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request was received from USDA for documents pertaining to field testing of genetically modified crops at Cornell University. The request was made by Jeremy Weir Alderson in 9/8/2000. Cornell did not receive the request from USDA until 3/8/2007 to review the documents for information that may qualify for withholding under Exemption 4 of the FOIA, 5 U.S.C & 552(b), which pertains to public disclosure of trade secrets and confidential business information. The two PI's named were contacted and both agreed the information could be released. The experiments had been completed and all data published, there were no trade secrets or confidential business information in the documents.

An accidental release of genetically modified grapes occurred at the Geneva Experimental Station. The PI filed the mandatory report with APHIS. R. Stinson, F. Cantone, D. Soderlund, and M. Golonski, did a site inspection of the field involved and were satisfied with the PI's response to the incident including the methods of containing the release, reporting to APHIS and identifying the regulatory issues. In the future, ORIA would like to see timely notification given to the IBC and ORIA.

Committee Membership

Professor David Soderlund took over the responsibilities of Chair in June 2006.

E. Ray Stinson has put much effort into visiting with department chairs of colleges that have faculty with IBC MUA's to identify and appoint additional members to the committee. Three new members have joined the committee.

The current committee membership is listed below:

**Institutional Biosafety Committee
Membership List AY 05-06**

Cantone, Frank A. fac2@cornell.edu		Biological Safety Officer Rm.125 Humphrey Serv Bldg	254-4888
DeJong, Walter wd2@cornell.edu	'09	Asst. Professor Plant Breeding and Genetics 309 Bradfield Hall	254-5384 254-4962
Ealick, Steven see3@cornell.edu	'08	Professor Chemistry & Chem Bio 382 A ST Olin	255-7961
Gan, Susheng sg288@cornell.edu	'07	Asst. Professor, Horticulture Sg228@cornell.edu 119 Plant Science	255-6381
Jennette, Paul jpi22@cornell.edu	'09	Biosafety Engineer CVM Biosafety Program S2-060 Schurman Hall	253-4227
McDonough, Patrick plm2@cornell.edu	'07	D2 030 Diagnostic Lab Pop Medicine & Diagnstc Sci	253-3900
Michaels, Christy Non-affiliated member	'09	Biology Teacher 5283 Brake Hill Road Homer, NY 13077	749-2776 844-8694 (work)
Parker, John jsp7@cornell.edu	'09	Asst. Professor Baker Institute Animal Health College of Vet. Medicine	256-5626
Perry, Keith klp3@cornell.edu	'09	Assoc. Professor Plant Pathology 210 Bradfield Hall	254-8243 255-9744
Quaroni, Andrea aq10@cornell.edu	'08	Professor Biomedical Sci T8 008 AVet. Res. Tower	253-3463
Siracusa, Jean Non-affiliated member	'09	Biology Instructor 35 Charles Street Auburn, NY 13021	315-252-7436
Smart, Christine	'08	Asst. Professor, Plant Pathology	315-787-2441

cds14@cornell.edu

213 Barton Lab
NYSAES, Cornell University
Geneva, NY 14456

Soderlund, David
dms6@cornell.edu

'09

Professor, Entomology and
Food Science and Technology
Directory, Northeast Regional IR-4 Program
NYSAES, Cornell University
Geneva, NY 14456

315-787-2364

Whittaker, Gary
grw7@cornell.edu

'10

VM Microbio & Immun.
C4 127 Vet Med Center

Assoc. Professor 253-4019

These positions will be permanently represented on the Committee

Ex-Officio, Non-Voting Members

Leed, Andrew
arl6@cornell.edu

Manager Tower Road Greenhouses
Kenneth Post Greenhouses

4-7266

Meinhardt, Patricia, M.D.
plm32@cornell.edu

Director of Occupational Medicine
620 Gannett Health Center

5-5155

Richardson, Robert C.

Vice Provost for Research
314 Day Hall

5-7200

Stinson, E. Ray, Ph.D.
ers39@cornell.edu

Assistant Vice-President Research Compliance
Director ORIA
35 Thornwood Drive Suite 500

5-5398

Walcott, Charles

Prof. Neurobiology and Behavior,
Assoc. Dean of Faculty
W255 Seeley G. Mudd Hall

4-4382