

Boston University Medical Campus

Community Liaison Committee (CLC)

National Emerging Infectious Diseases Laboratories (NEIDL)

MEETING NOTES

Tuesday, October 16, 2012

9:15 am. * 620 Albany Street

ATTENDING

Robert Francis, Chairperson, CLC; Linda Lukas, Co-Chairperson, CLC; James Keeney, CLC; Dolly Battle, CLC; Valeda Britton, Executive Director, Community Relations, BU; Chimel Idiokitas, Assistant Director, Community Relations, BU; Ronald Corley, Associate Director, NEIDL; Katherine Bossart, Associate Director, Collaborative Core, Acting Director, Specimen Processing Core, NEIDL; Kevin Tuohey, Executive Director, Research Compliance, BU;

ADMINISTRATIVE

Minutes of the September 18, 2012 meeting were distributed. Chairperson Francis called the meeting to order and introduced those speaking to agenda items.

Ms Britton mentioned that she had received numerous applications for the expanded Community Liaison Committee (CLC). Interviews were ongoing. She hoped to have candidates vetted and notified by the end of the month.

Mr. Francis asked Dr Corley to give a presentation to the Dimock Center's Health Center Board on the mission of the NEIDL. Ms Britton and Mr. Francis will arrange a call to get more specificity on this presentation

Ms Britton informed the group that Community Relations had been doing outreach to encourage non-profit organizations or agencies to apply for Boston University community grants. There are two grants for \$2500 each services. Special consideration would be given to programs or initiatives that benefit local youth and/or beautification efforts in the South End or Roxbury neighborhoods. Mr. Keeney asked that an application be sent to Youth Enrichment Services. Dr Corley asked Ms Britton to contact St Stephen's Church and talk with Rev Crellin. Ms Britton stated that she had visited St Stephen's already and was in the process of setting up a meeting with Rev. Timothy Crellin.

Mr. Keeney discussed the October 9, 2012 meeting of the Blackstone Franklin Neighborhood Association at which City Councilors Arroyo, Jackson and Pressley voiced their opposition to the NEIDL.

Ms Britton reminded the group that the BSL-4 This Week in Virology (TWIV) podcast starring Drs. Corley, Muhlberger, and Duprex was posted on the NEIDL website (bu.edu/neidl). Dr Corley mentioned that the podcast does not have to be viewed all in one sitting, but can be paused and restarted.

OPERATIONS

Dr Corley reported that Boston University is finalizing the process to recoat several surface areas in the NEIDL. He reminded the CLC that no BSL-3 or BSL-4 research would take place in

the NEIDL until appropriate approvals were obtained. Ms Britton mentioned that a Boston University statement about the coatings would be forthcoming. She would send a copy of the statement to the CLC and other community members at the same time she posted the statement on the NEIDL website.

Dr Bossart spoke about moving her lab into the NEIDL to do BSL-2 research on Dengue virus. She was among a number of researchers moving into the lab to conduct BSL-2 work, using BSL-4 space. She stated that she arrived at Boston University in 2008. Previously, she worked in a BSL-4 lab in Australia. Her research has been primarily focused on developing diagnostics, vaccines and treatments for the Hendra virus and its cousin, Nipah. She recently received recognition for being part of a team of scientists that developed a new vaccine for use in horses in Australia. This was a significant discovery since hopefully this vaccine will prevent Hendra from being transmitted from bats to horses and then to people. She noted that vaccinated horses survived being infected by Hendra and appeared to show no signs of the virus. In addition, the vaccine showed promise in preventing infection from Nipah.

Also, Dr Bossart mentioned that she has been actively developing new antigens and antibodies for Dengue virus, a mosquito borne disease, using similar methods to those used for Hendra and Nipah. Dengue is a BSL-2 virus. She reminded the group that Dengue infects over fifty (50) million people per year and there have been reported cases in Florida and Louisiana. There are limited diagnostics for this disease and no therapeutics or vaccines.

Regulatory

Dr Corley reported that the time for publishing the NIH Record of Decision had been extended again. The NIH was adding pertinent documents to the administrative record. In addition, they were finalizing an index and compiling an electronic record that would be posted on the NIH website .

The next CLC meeting is scheduled for November 20, 2012 at 9:00 am.

Meeting adjourned at 10:35 am.