

Boston University Medical Campus

Community Liaison Committee (CLC)

National Emerging Infectious Diseases Laboratories (NEIDL)

MEETING NOTES

Tuesday, October 15, 2013
6:00 pm. * 620 Albany Street

ATTENDING

Robert Francis, Co-Chairperson, CLC; Linda Lukas, Co-Chairperson, CLC; Dolly Battle, CLC; James Keeney, CLC; Robert Timmerman, CLC; Valeda Britton, Executive Director, Community Relations/MED, BU; Chimel Idiokitas, Assistant Director, Community Relations/MED, BU; John Murphy, Interim Director, NEIDL; Ronald Corley, Associate Director, NEIDL;

At 6:10 pm, Co-Chair Lukas opened the meeting.

PRESENTATIONS

Research Process

Dr. Ron Corley gave an overview of the NEIDL's research process.

The NEIDL hires researchers whose research interests fit into the NEIDL mission. These researchers will perform cutting edge basic and transitional research on emerging and reemerging infectious diseases and help develop diagnostic tests, treatments, and vaccines to promote public health through combating infectious diseases. These researchers are experienced professionals in their fields. Typically, investigators are provided a start-up package for 2 to 3 years of support by the academic unit (department, school, and/or the NEIDL) in which they are hired, and where they are conducting research. This package is used primarily to fund employees and purchase equipment and supplies to establish their research program at BU.

In addition, researchers are expected to pursue other funding avenues to support their research. At some point, it is expected that their research program becomes fully funded by outside resources. Funding may come from a variety of different resources such as NIH or other federal or state agencies, biotech companies or other private companies, foundations, and in some cases institutional funding.

All research proposals from NEIDL investigators are subject to the same institutional review boards that review all research proposed at Boston University. This includes, where appropriate, the Institutional Biosafety Committee (<http://www.bu.edu/orccommittees/ibc/>), the Institutional Review Board (<http://www.bu.edu/irb/>) and the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (<http://www.bu.edu/orccommittees/iacuc/>). In addition, research proposals involving BSL-3 select agents and BSL-4 select agents are subject to BPHC and CDC approval. All BSL-3 non-select agent work require BPHC approval. It was noted that no secret or classified work would be proposed or approved.

A CLC member asked whether research discoveries or grants belong to researchers. Dr. Corley replied that when research grants are awarded, they are not awarded directly to the researcher, but to the academic institution. However, in the case of discoveries, the institution and the researcher are co-owners. The Federal government will not own any discovery that can be commercialized.

REGULATORY

Dr. Murphy announced that the NEIDL has received a full certificate of occupancy for BSL-3. The state court hearing is December 11th.

The NEIDL has re-committed to training the Fire Department on October 22-25. Each session will be an hour long. Boston University continues to meet with Boston Medical Center to discuss space, training and staffing plans and procedures for suspected or demonstrated exposure to infectious diseases.

EH&S continues refining procedures to assess reliability, suitability and competency of personnel for research in the NEIDL.

ADMINISTRATIVE

The June and September CLC minutes were approved

COMMUNITY LIAISON REPORT

Ms. Britton and Mr. Idiokitas discussed BU's community outreach activities in the surrounding neighborhoods over the past month. Community Relations have begun distributing BU hockey tickets and soliciting organizations to submit applications for a Fall Community Grant of \$2500.

Co-Chair Francis stated that a \$2500 grant was not sufficient to make a difference to an organization. He recommended that BU consider giving larger grant amounts. Perhaps, a total grant of \$10,000 to one organization would demonstrate BU's commitment. Also, it was suggested that BU give more in kind resources to areas of community concern such as employment, especially for youth and enrichment opportunities.

INSTITUTIONAL BIOSAFETY COMMITTEE (IBC) REPORT

Mr. Timmerman and Mr. Keeney gave an update on recent IBC meetings. They reported findings from the IBC Public Meeting on September 20th.

Mr. Timmerman mentioned the following:

- A microchip is being developed at the BU Engineering school for detecting diseases. They are looking to detect HIV. This process is faster and cheaper for areas without a full lab.
- There was a protocol for research on nanoparticles as carriers of medication. There will be a training session on nanoparticles in November for the IBC.

Mr. Keeney added that all 594 BU labs are inspected four (4) times a year by Environmental Health and Safety staff.

SCIENTIFIC & RESEARCH UPDATE

Dr. Corley said the permitting process for BSL-3 will include moving existing labs into the NEIDL. Tuberculosis BSL-3 research can be moved once the Boston Public Health Commission gives approval.

BSL-3 select agent research cannot be moved into the NEIDL until CDC approval is granted. Dr. Corley stated that the space is ready to start all BSL-3 work and that the recoating is almost complete in the BSL-4 labs and recertification of that space will occur upon completion of the coatings project. A section of the lab completed in sequence 1 (33%) is being used for simulations and is ready to be used now.

The first Boston Biosafety Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday Nov. 13th from 5pm to 7pm. Messrs. Eliscar, Keeney and Timmerman are members of the committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm