

Boston University Medical Campus

Community Liaison Committee (CLC)

National Emerging Infectious Diseases Laboratories (NEIDL)

MEETING NOTES

Tuesday, January 28, 2014
6:00 pm. * 620 Albany Street

ATTENDING

Robert Francis, Co-Chairperson, CLC; Linda Lukas, Co-Chairperson, CLC; Kenneth Nwosu, CLC; Robert Timmerman, CLC; James Keeney, CLC; Valerie Shelley, CLC; James Eliscar, CLC; Valeda Britton, Executive Director, Community Relations/MED, BU; Chimel Idiokitas, Assistant Director, Community Relations/MED, BU; Elizabeth Leary, Director, Community Relations/CRC, BU; Kevin Tuohey, Executive Director, Research Compliance, BU; Ronald Corley, Associate Director, NEIDL; John McCall, Director, Information Technology Core, NEIDL

At 6:00 pm, Co-Chair Lukas opened the meeting.

PRESENTATIONS

Communications Technology in BSL-4 labs

Mr. McCall gave an overview of the “badge”, a device being used only in the NEIDL to address better communication between researchers while in their “space suits.” While in suits, researchers are confronted with up to 85 decibels of background noise from the air supply. This is comparable to being at the commuter rail train station when the train arrives. This noise makes it very difficult for simple conversations between staff to occur in either the lab or outside of it. In previous years, researchers would have to use hand signals, shout over the noise or write on a notepad to communicate. Some BSL-4 labs have tried to use walkie-talkies or large headsets to facilitate communication. However, these methods have not been optimal.

The badge system implemented by Mr. McCall is a 2-ounce device that is worn around the neck of the researcher while they are in their suit. The badge is then connected to a pair of headsets that also includes a microphone (similar to an ipod earbuds). The badge is activated by pushing a button and speaking a command.. Average battery life before a charge is 4 hours, however it only takes 30 minutes to fully charge it. The system works with wireless access points have been placed throughout the NEIDL.

The badge can do a number of innovative functions. It can initiate and receive calls to a designated phone number, locate individuals in real-time who are registered to a specific device, and can allow direct communication with other researchers in the building, no matter where they are. The badge can also tell you the time and date, can alert the control center of an emergency with one press of a button, and has

proved to be a valuable tool for note-taking. Mr. McCall said he often calls himself and leaves detailed messages on his voicemail.

Ms Lukas asked about how data was recorded in the past. Dr Corley replied that most researchers use computers or even scratch-pads. Mr. Timmerman questioned how would a scratch-pad be sterilized. Dr. Corley said that since no scratch-pads are removed from the lab, researcher's notes have to be typed into the computer, which is in the lab and is therefore accessible by secured computer elsewhere in the building. For computers in the BSL-4, they can not be removed unless they are fully decontaminated .

SCIENTIFIC & RESEARCH UPDATE

Dr. Corley told the CLC that NEIDL personnel have been working on the NIH "operations" grant. The grant must be delivered by February 1st, and it is a five-year grant.

ADMINISTRATIVE

The November 2013 CLC minutes were approved.

INSTITUTIONAL BIOSAFETY COMMITTEE (IBC) REPORT

Mr. Timmerman and Mr. Keeney gave an overview of the January meeting and the protocols that were tabled or discussed. Mr. Timmerman reviewed (4) three-year resubmissions, and (1) one new protocol on stress research. Mr. Timmerman mentioned that training certifications must be updated annually. Mr. Keeney stated that he was impressed by the members of the IBC, the diligence that they put into their studies and their focus on safety.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS REPORT

Ms. Britton and Mr. Idiokitas gave a PowerPoint presentation entitled "2013 NEIDL Highlights," which included various topics and events concerning the NEIDL during 2013. A copy of this presentation is attached to these minutes as Exhibit A and incorporated herein.

The CLC agreed to move CLC meetings to the 4th Tuesday of each month. The next CLC meeting is scheduled for February 25, 2014.

The CLC received a copy of the press release dated January 28, 2014, announcing that the Franklin Park Coalition was awarded a \$2500 grant to support youth programming. Their program is entitled Back to Nature in Franklin Park and is designed to bring young people to Franklin Park to engage in a series of outdoor activities. It was noted that there were a number of worthy and relevant youth community programs that submitted applications. This made the selection process very challenging.

Co-Chair Francis again asked that the minutes reflect that more grants need to be given to community organizations and that the grant amount should be \$10,000. Other committee members voiced their support.

REGULATORY

Mr. Tuohey reported that EH&S was in the process of planning emergency response drills involving representatives from BPHC, police, fire and EH&S. There will be at least three upcoming drills this year. Tentatively, the drills will cover the following scenarios:

1. Complete failure of EDS (sterilizers)
2. Transportation issue
3. A lab incident

He mentioned that all necessary permits have been submitted to state and federal regulatory agencies; The BPHC has approved BSL 3 research in the NEIDL. The BSL-3 select agent application has been submitted to the CDC. The BSL-4 application has been submitted to both the BPHC and the CDC. The Boston Biosafety Committee is in the process of reviewing the BSL-4 application for the NEIDL.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM

EXHIBIT A

NEIDL Highlights 2013

Presentations

- Presentation updates by Seth Jaffe, Esquire on the pending two lawsuits known as: Allen v. NIH (Federal Court) and Ten Residents of Boston v. Boston Redevelopment Authority (State Court).
- Presentation by Ms. Michelle Consalvo, Assistant Vice President of Government and Community Affairs, on the role of the Office of Government and Community Affairs within the University and surrounding neighborhood
- Presentation by Chief Thomas Robbins, Executive Director of Public Safety, on the NEIDL Public Safety Officers and security measures that exist in and around the NEIDL
- Presentation by Dr. Nahid Bhadelia, Director Infection Control at the NEIDL, on her role within the Research Occupational Health Program (ROHP), and the program's main function which is to promote a culture of safety in research by pre-employment screening and utilizing best practices to perform ongoing medical surveillance, workplace risk assessments, biosafety and agent training, clinical occupational health services, and post exposure management for researchers.
- Presentation by Ms. Amanda Mae Bush, Senior Specialist for Environmental Health and Safety at BU, demonstrating specialized packing procedures for NEIDL pathogens and Chief Robbins on transportation protocols for the NEIDL
- Presentation by Mr. Kevin Touhey, Executive Director of Research Compliance and Mr. Stephen Morash, Director of Emergency Response Planning, on BU incident response training and emergency response procedures
- Presentation by Dr. Andrew Henderson, Chair of the BU Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC), on the IBC and its role
- Presentations on Tuberculosis research by Dr. James Galagan, Associate Professor of Biomedical Engineering and Microbiology, and Dr. Igor Kramnik,, Director of the Aerobiology Core.
- Presentation by Dr. Ronald Corley, Associate Director of the NEIDL, on all the steps needed to approve the NEIDL research, from beginning to end
- Presentation by Dr. Ronald Corley on the operational structure of the NEIDL and the core facilities including the scientific and operational cores.

- Presentation by Mr. Jamie Fay, President of Fort Point Associates Inc., on the Supplemental Final Environmental Impact Report (SFEIR) filing as part of the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) made to the Secretary of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EOEEA).

Administrative

- Adopted Community Liaison Committee (CLC) Guidelines
- Posted the Threading the NEIDL video placed on the NEIDL website., a video produced by the American Society of Microbiology providing a tour of a BSL-4 lab at the NEIDL
- Identified two members of the CLC to serve as community representatives of the IBC

Operations

- March – NEIDL conducts a discussion based emergency response planning drill involving representatives from BPHC, police, fire and EH&S agencies. This drill is part of the NEIDL's ongoing safety and training program for lab personnel and internal and external response officials. CLC members invited to attend.
- June – Full scale emergency response drill at the NEIDL using an active shooter scenario. CLC members invited to attend
- December – NEIDL conducts a discussion based emergency response planning drill using an earthquake scenario. CLC members invited to attend

Scientific & Research

- BSL-2 research is ongoing.
- Researchers are working on BSL-2 research work in BSL-4 suits to test standard operating procedures and emergency response scenarios
- Dr. John H. Connor and Dr. Tom B. Kepler are two new faculty members that joined the NEIDL
- Re-coating of BSL-3 and BSL-4 laboratories completed
- Discussion with CLC members to address their concerns surrounding the outbreak of the H7/N9 virus in China

Community

- BU Fitness and Wellness Center at the Boston Center for Youth and Family's Blackstone Community Center opened on February 1, 2013. BU President Brown and Boston Mayor Thomas Menino officially dedicated the facility during February school vacation week.
- Six scholarships were awarded to local high school students from Madison Park Technical Vocational High School, Cathedral High School, City on a Hill Charter School and Boston Latin Academy for BU's Citylab Summer lab Biotechnology Program
- Approximately 100 scholarships to BU summer sports camps distributed, in conjunction with Boston Centers for Youth & Families
- Community Grants (\$2500 each) were awarded to Discover Roxbury and Franklin Park Coalition

Regulatory

- January – The National Institutes of Health (NIH) issued a Supplemental Record of Decision for the NEIDL. The Supplemental Record of Decision concluded that the NEIDL posed minimal risk to the surrounding community. This conclusion was based on the findings of the NIH's Final Supplementary Risk Assessment (FSRA), a 2717 page report, commissioned in part at the behest of the MA. Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EOEEA). This report was evaluated by an independent panel of scientists from the National Research Council. The panel concluded that the NIH study was sound and valid, with the panel chairman quoted as saying, "The work they (the NIH) had done was sound scientific work, the scenarios they developed were credible, and the analyses they presented were also sound and credible."
- March – EOEEA Secretary Richard K. Sullivan's issued a MEPA certificate approving research at the NEIDL. He stated "Based upon my review of the SFEIR and after consultation with State Agencies, I am satisfied that the SFEIR provided sufficient information to allow State Agencies to understand the environmental consequences of the project."
- October - NEIDL files application with the BPHC to transfer BSL-3 research involving Tuberculosis-related bacteria to the NEIDL
- October - NEIDL receives approval to transfer BSL-3 research to NEIDL

Legal

- September-Judge Saris issued her decision in the Federal Court case concluding "In sum, the Court is satisfied that the FSRA adequately analyzes the risks associated with building the Biolab, including "worst case" scenarios and suburban and rural alternatives. The NIH provides sufficient scientific support for its ultimate conclusions that the risks to the public are extremely low to not reasonable foreseeable, and the differences between the Boston location and the suburban and

rural sites are not significant. In light of the benefits of placing the Biolab in an urban area like Boston, which provides opportunity for expert medical research collaboration, and the low risk of harm to the public, NIH's decision is rational.”

- December-Oral arguments are heard in the State Court case. No decision has been issued yet. While awaiting resolution of this case, BU is continuing to pursue BSL-3 and BSL-4 approval through the Boston Public Health Commission and the Centers for Disease Control.