

# Boston University Medical Campus

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## Community Liaison Committee (CLC)

National Emerging Infectious Diseases Laboratories (NEIDL)

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### MEETING NOTES

Tuesday, March 25, 2014

6:00 pm. \* 650 Albany Street rm. L714

### ATTENDING

Linda Lukas, Co-Chairperson, CLC; Kenneth Nwosu, CLC; Chayla White, CLC; James Keeney, CLC; Robert Timmerman, CLC; Dolly Battle, CLC; Valeda Britton, Executive Director, Community Relations/MED, BU; Chimel Idiokitas, Assistant Director, Community Relations/MED, BU; Elizabeth Leary, Director, Community Relations/CRC, BU; Ken Ryan, Municipal Liaison, BU; Ronald Corley, Associate Director, NEIDL; Jack Murphy, Interim Director, NEIDL; Dr. Paul Duprex, Professor of Microbiology and Director, Cell and Tissue Imaging Core, NEIDL; Tito Jackson, Boston City Councilor, and various members of the public.

At 6:00 pm, Co-Chair Lukas opened the meeting by welcoming new faces to the meeting and explaining how the CLC operates.

### PRESENTATIONS

#### **Just Because #JennySays...doesn't mean its true...#PaulReplies**

Dr. Paul Duprex, gave a presentation on his research on measles immunization and the importance of herd immunity. He stressed the importance of vaccines and how they have proved to be successful in eradicating diseases such as smallpox and how the global health community is making great strides toward poliovirus elimination. He reminded the audience that research on smallpox is illegal and such research will not and can not take place at the NEIDL. He reported that the measles virus is now the most infectious human pathogen on Earth and the number of estimated measles deaths has decreased dramatically from 2000-2010 due to the worldwide immunization of millions of children.

However, measles exposures and outbreaks have been on the rise in developed countries such as the United States due to importation from elsewhere in the world. He emphasized that it is important not to listen to the hype or misconceptions voiced by celebrities regarding the effectiveness of vaccines. For example, Jenny McCarthy, a prominent anti-vaccination proponent, refused to have her child vaccinated with the measles, mumps and rubella vaccine, because she believed vaccination causes autism. There is no scientific basis for her assertion and this has done untold damage to public health in the United States.

Dr. Duprex, suggested that we all have a social obligation to get vaccinated to not only protect ourselves, but also those around us that cannot be vaccinated. It is important to put the interests of the community first as 95% vaccination coverage is required to maintain herd immunity.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE**

The February 2014 CLC minutes were approved.

## **INSTITUTIONAL BIOSAFETY COMMITTEE (IBC) REPORT**

Mr. Keeney gave updates on the protocols discussed at the IBC meeting and mentioned that the rating on one study (Alzheimer's) was changed from approved to conditional at the behest of the IBC's community representatives (Keeney and Timmerman).

## **COMMUNITY RELATIONS REPORT**

Ms. Britton reported that a new brochure for the NEIDL was produced and available for distribution. She also announced that BU continues to conduct tours of the facility, and would love to have members of the community attend.

## **SCIENTIFIC & RESEARCH UPDATE**

Dr. Corley reported that simulation exercises were ongoing to test standard operating procedures and communication devices in the lab. He informed the group that, at present, the largest known outbreak of Ebola was occurring in Africa. This disease had been going on for about a month in part because the disease was difficult to diagnose until late stage and was spread by direct contact with bodily secretions.

Then Dr. Corley announced that City Councilor Charles Yancey had filed an ordinance proposing to ban BSL-4 research in the City of Boston. This Ordinance raised additional concerns about the NEIDL and its research.

Also, he mentioned the recent Newsweek article. He said BU was drafting a rebuttal because the article contained misinformation.

## **REGULATORY**

Dr. Murphy reported that the Boston Biosafety Committee continues to review Boston University's BSL-4 application.

*The CLC meeting adjourned at 7:10 PM*

## Public Comment

Co-chair Lukas invited members of the general public to speak. City Councilor Tito Jackson spoke first and said he was not against science or research, but had grave concerns with the safety and location of the NEIDL. Members of the general public were given time to ask questions and voice their opinions and concerns regarding the NEIDL.

*The meeting ended at 7:30 PM*

Next Meeting: April 22, 2014