

# 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, November 25, 2014

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

### ATTENDING

Robert Francis, Co-Chairperson; Linda Lukas, Co-Chairperson, CLC; Jim Keeney, CLC; Kenneth Nwosu, CLC; Robert Timmerman, CLC; Kevin Tuohey, Executive Director, Research Compliance; Valeda Britton, Executive Director, Community Relations/MED, BU; Chimel Idiokitas, Assistant Director, Community Relations/MED, BU; Elizabeth Leary, Director, Community Relations/CRC, BU; Department of Microbiology, Dr. Ronald Corley, Director, NEIDL;

At 6:00 pm, Co-Chairs Francis and Lukas opened the meeting.

### PRESENTATIONS

“NEIDL Permitting Process Pt. 2” presentation by Mr. Tuohey

Mr. Tuohey stated that BSL-3 and BSL-4 research requires both local and national permits. The NEIDL has received approval from the CDC to do research on BSL-3 select agents. He reminded the CLC that the BPHC has already approved both BSL-3 non Select Agent as well as BSL-3 Select Agent research. In connection with the BSL-3 and BSL-4 permitting process, BU has submitted all documents required to the BPHC and the CDC. All BSL-4 research is Select Agent.

The CDC permit process inspection for BSL-4 took place from 10/28-11/4/ 2014 and included six inspectors. They inspected the facility, reviewed documents and records, checked security and did inventory control checks. Also, they met with NEIDL personnel to conduct interviews as well as with the BPHC. The CDC’s Division of Select Agents and Toxins has experience inspecting BSL-4 labs around the world. The CDC report is scheduled to be finished in January 2015. The report will make suggestions and identify issues that may need corrective action. It is anticipated that we may receive the BSL-4 permit in the spring.

In connection with the BSL-4 permit, the Boston Biosafety Committee (BBC) will be reviewing at the December meeting, the Biosafety, Security, Inspections, Chemical Hygiene, Commissioning and Waste Management plans.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE**

The minutes of the October CLC meeting were unanimously approved.

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

Mr. Keeney and Mr. Timmerman gave IBC updates. 18 protocols were presented for IBC approval. Mr. Keeney reviewed 3 protocols. Mr. Timmerman reviewed two protocols.

## **COMMUNITY RELATIONS UPDATE**

Ms. Britton reported that Community Relations for the Medical campus had attended the Masqueraid Ball fundraiser for Dothouse Health. She and Mr. Idiokitas noted that NEIDL researchers would bring the infectious disease class on viruses (ID2) to a fifth grade class at the Trotter School in Roxbury.

In December, BU will host its Holiday Reading Program at 12 schools over a 2- day period. BU student athletes read 1 on 1 with BPS students. Each student receives a book to take home.

## **SCIENTIFIC & RESEARCH UPDATE**

Dr. Corley mentioned that Dr. Nahid Bhadelia was featured on the front cover of the December Boston Magazine for her work in treating patients in Sierra Leone. Dr. Bhadelia had recently returned from Sierra Leone where she was training doctors, nurses and other health care professionals on best practices with respect to Ebola care.

The Ebola crisis continues in West Africa. It has continued to appear in Mali. What is being noted is that if people are diagnosed early and receive early care, it increases their survival rates. However, the lack of on-site diagnostics is causing a 4-5 day delay in diagnosis. The medical community is looking for ways to get a mobile diagnosis laboratory to Sierra Leone. Ebola seems to be better controlled in Liberia than in the past. Yet, there is still a 30-40% death rate from the disease.

Dr. Corley discussed a new strain of avian influenza in the UK and the Netherlands that is causing concern.

## **REGULATORY**

Mr. Tuohey reported that USA today is working on a piece regarding Institutional Biosafety Committees and their practices around transparency. It was noted that they were impressed by BU's practices as the BU IBC minutes are public and were readily available on the BU website as compared to other institutions across the country.

The CLC was invited to attend a full- scale emergency response drill scheduled for December 11<sup>th</sup>. The scenario will be a failure of the EDS decontamination system cook tanks. BU will simulate this situation jointly with city agencies to plan appropriate response measures. The Public Information Officers of all the city agencies will be participating in this drill. Notices of the drill will be distributed to neighbors prior to the drill.

**Next Meeting: January 27, 2015**