

# Boston University Medical Campus

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## Community Liaison Committee (CLC)

National Emerging Infectious Diseases Laboratories (NEIDL)

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### MEETING NOTES

Monday January 14, 2019

6:30 pm. \* 650 Albany Street Room 715

### ATTENDING

J. Kevin Fisher, CLC; Jim Keeney, CLC; David Opp, CLC; Jean Lee, CLC; P.M. Forde, CLC; Valeda Britton, Executive Director, Community Relations/MED, BU; Chimel Idiokitas, Director, Community Outreach/MED, BU; Dr. Robert Davey, Professor BU Department of Microbiology, NEIDL Investigator; Dr. Ronald Corley, BU Department of Microbiology, Director, NEIDL

Meeting opened at 6:35 pm

### NEW TREATMENTS FOR EBOLA VIRUS PRESENTATION by Dr. Robert Davey:

Dr. Davey came to the NEIDL from the Texas Biomedical Research Institute in San Antonio, Texas. His research is focused on answering how do long filamentous (rod shaped) viruses such as ebola, Marburg and influenza enter cells. What pathways do they use? Once this information is obtained, he hopes to utilize this knowledge to identify potential therapeutics to block entry and replication by these viruses into cells. One of his goals is to develop less toxic and more effective antiviral therapeutics and inhibitors.

Because of Dr. Davey's research, he was invited to do a research project at the Janelia Research Campus, which is part of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, in Virginia. There he will use a cutting-edge microscope, one of only two in the world, housed in the Advanced Imaging Center to screen and identify ebola and Marburg entry blockers.

### Receipt of Agents/Transportation

Because BU would like to do additional research with different BSL-4 pathogens, it asked the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) to consider changes to the BSL-4 transportation plan. After careful review, the BPHC has determined that each pathogen

shipment should be evaluated with its own dedicated risk assessment to determine the appropriate mode of transport. Given the safety issues involved with long distance winter travel by road, the latest shipment of pathogens bound for the NEIDL arrived by private plane, then were met by a truck with two drivers and a GPS tracking device, all the while following the transportation plan. The travel route was determined by State and City officials. The pathogens were delivered safely to the NEIDL in a pelican box. All BSL-4 pathogens before further study require protocols to be approved by the BU Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC), BPHC and other regulatory agencies. Dr Corley assured the CLC that we will not and can not study smallpox in the NEIDL facility.

#### Requested change to BPHC permit for rDNA BSL-4 Research:

Dr Corley reminded the group that the NEIDL had asked the BPHC to reconsider the prohibition on rDNA research at BSL-4 and to allow such rDNA technology to be used at the NEIDL. He thanked the CLC for their letters of support. The BPHC held a public meeting on this request on January 7, 5pm- 7pm. The public comment period remained open until January 10, 2019. It is anticipated that the BPHC will vote on this matter at their Executive Committee meeting on January 16. It was noted that the BPHC will continue to evaluate all BSL -4 protocols that the NEIDL submits to the IBC.

#### CLC Review of Meeting Notes from December 17, 2018.

#### Government & Community Affairs Update:

Ms. Britton asked the CLC to think about contacts they have at local schools for ID2. She also announced that BU will be granting scholarships to local high school students to attend Introduction to Careers in Medicine and Summerlab this summer. She mentioned that the NEIDL has been asked to participate in the BAHEC Career Expo and to sponsor one of the BU Biobugs sessions this summer given to BAHEC students. CLC members received the BU School of Public Health Spring Signature Program handout. CLC members were invited to attend "Outbreak Response", an event hosted by the Museum of Science on January 30, 2019. Drs. Nahid Bhadelia and Gerald Keusch will speak at this exciting event. BU, in partnership with the City of Boston, will host a Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. celebration on January 21, 2019 at the George Sherman Union on the Charles River Campus. Representative Ayanna Pressley will be the keynote speaker. The general public is invited.

The next meeting is March 11<sup>th</sup> at the Hampton Inn & Suites in the Jeep Jones Conference Room. The CLC members gave their input on ways to publicize the meeting. It was suggested that BU create an Eventbrite posting to capture potential attendees

and get an accurate headcount for seating purposes. Another suggestion was to post on a senior website.

Meeting Adjourned