



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, HOSPITAL AND WELFARE
1493 CAMBRIDGE STREET CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139
Telephone 354-2020

RECEIVED BY
OFFICE OF CITY CLERK
FEB 28 10 46 AM '79
CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

MINUTES OF THE CAMBRIDGE
BIOHAZARDS COMMITTEE

24 January 1979

4:30 PM

PRESENT: COMMITTEE MEMBERS

ABSENT: COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Donald P. Dressler, M.D.
Richard DeFilippi, Ph.D.
Elliott Lobel, J.D.*

Estelle Paris, R.N.
Ralph Ross, M.D.

PRESENT: OTHERS

Ms. Macy Kohler, Harvard Biohazard Office
Daniel Liberman, Ph.D., MIT Biohazard Assessment Officer
Fred Schaefer, MIT Biohazard Assessment Technician
Joseph L. Hozid, Ed.D., Commissioner's Office

A special meeting was convened on Wednesday 24 January 1979, in the Chairperson's hospital room at Mount Auburn Hospital relative to the review of the revised NIH Guidelines for Recombinant DNA Research that had become effective 2 January 1979. The reason for the special meeting was the need for the committee's approval of these guidelines as set forth in the ORDINANCE FOR THE USE OF RECOMBINANT DNA MOLECULE TECHNOLOGY IN THE CITY OF CAMBRIDGE before any further Recombinant DNA Research (especially those sponsored and conducted by Harvard and MIT) could be conducted in the City of Cambridge.

Since the committee had reviewed the proposed revised guidelines in their initial format, which were published in the Federal Register, Friday, 28 July 1978, the focus of the review was on those facets of the 28 July draft on which NIH had received comments. A summary of these changes was presented by Ms. Kohler in addition to the summary provided in the Federal Register, Friday 22 December 1978.

*Although Mr. Lobel arrived after the meeting had been adjourned, Dr. Dressler briefed him on the proceedings and he concurred with the committee's decisions.

Although the committee already had copies of the revised guidelines, to ensure that the members were fully apprised of the situation copies of the following two documents were provided:

1. Memorandum of 15 December from the NIH Director of the Office of Recombinant DNA Activities to all institutional Biosafety Committees and Principal Investigators concerning "Transition to Revised Guidelines for Recombinant DNA Research" to be effective 2 January 1979.
2. Memorandum of 11 September 1978 from Dr. Dressler, Chair, to then Commissioner of Health and Hospital, Dr. Comunale, regarding a special meeting of the committee held on Friday, 11 September 1979, concerning proposed NIH Guidelines for Recombinant DNA Research published as Part IV in the Federal Register, 28 July 1978.

The consensus of those present was that the revised guidelines relative to containment levels did not present any imminent hazard for public safety. After the presentation by the university representatives especially concerning their compliance with the requirement that twenty percent (20%) of their institutional committees include outside members, the committee voted to approve the revised NIH guidelines. (Correspondence has been received from Harvard and MIT confirming compliance with the requirement for 20% outside committee members.)

Additional Business

Dr. Lieberman, the MIT Biohazard Assessment Officer, asked that the committee review a request from an investigator at MIT ". . . to work under P-3, EK1 containment for a variety of reasons (choice of hosts, vectors, availability of equipment, etc.)." This request was brought to the committee since the Cambridge Ordinance requires that ". . . all experiments undertaken at the P-3 level of physical containment shall require an NIH certified host/vector system of at least an EK2 level of biological containment." After a brief discussion concerning the sensitivity of investigators in Recombinant DNA Research to the need for safety, the committee approved the request.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 PM.

Because of the special circumstances of this meeting (the Chairperson was recuperating from a disc operation), Dr. Hozid from the Commissioner's Office compiled these meeting notes.

JRM

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
MEDICAL DEPARTMENT
ENVIRONMENTAL MEDICAL SERVICE

6 February 1979

77 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, 20B-238
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

Dr. Donald Dressler, Chairman
Cambridge Biohazard Committee
1493 Cambridge Street, Room 215A
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Dear Doctor Dressler:

Under the revised Guidelines the containment requirements for certain experiments are P-2, EK1. One investigator at M.I.T. would prefer to work under P-3, EK1 containment for a variety of reasons (choice of hosts, vectors, availability of equipment, etc.).

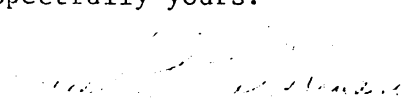
The Cambridge Ordinance (Section II-7, subparagraph I-3) requires that all experiments undertaken at the P-3 level of physical containment shall require an N.I.H. certified host/vector system of at least an EK2 level of biological containment.

This request to my office established the precedent of an investigator wanting to work under increased physical containment (which I regard as increasing the protection of both the environment and the public at large).

I request that the Cambridge Biohazard Committee review this requirement to use an EK2 host/vector system at P-3. A statement from the Cambridge Biohazard Committee supporting this investigator's request would be most helpful.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Respectfully yours.


Daniel F. Liberman, Ph.D.
Biohazard Assessment Officer
Committee on Assessment of Biohazards

cc: Melvir H. Chalfen

13

S-100

Back
and
2/26/77
File in folders