



# NEWSLETTER

Recombinant DNA Monitoring Committee

January 2017

Issue 10

## Your IBC

Welcome to new IBC Secretary, Ms Carly Owen.

## OGTR Review of Gene Technology Regulations

In October the OGTR announced that they will be conducting a review of the Gene Technology Regulations (2001). They invited submissions from accredited organisations and IBC's in response to the discussion paper they released on options for regulating new technologies. The IBC informed all NLRD/DNIR holders of the discussion paper and invited them to submit their comments. A submission from the IBC was produced and submitted to the OGTR favouring Option 4 from the discussion paper – *'Exclude certain new technologies from regulation based on the outcomes they produce'*.

## Gene Drive Guidelines

In December the OGTR released guidelines for IBC's regarding the use of engineered gene drives. All NLRD/DNIR holders were informed by the IBC of these guidelines via email. These guidelines are available on the [IBC page](http://www.ogtr.gov.au/internet/ogtr/publishing.nsf/Content/ibc-1) of the OGTR website. <http://www.ogtr.gov.au/internet/ogtr/publishing.nsf/Content/ibc-1>

Although the focus of the technical review of the Gene Technology Regulations (2001) will not be on gene drives, OGTR will consider whether the current requirements for contained GM gene drive research are suitable to mitigate any risks posed by the research.

The OGTR would like to hear from institutions that are currently considering or conducting work with gene drives. Therefore if you intend to conduct work with gene drives please advise the IBC via the [IBC Secretary](#).



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<http://www.intoon.com>

## Update on change of waste disposal contractors.

Sterihealth will continue to dispose of GM/biological waste at the ANU as the new waste contractors, SUEZ, are currently unable to provide a suitable service for waste that needs to be incinerated. It is hoped that SUEZ will be able to provide a suitable service for disposing of GM/biological waste in the near future.

As the University is responsible for ensuring all GMO waste generated within the University is disposed of in accordance with the OGTR disposal guidelines, the IBC will audit any changes to the current arrangement to ensure compliance with the guidelines.

## GM Waste

Please be reminded that all GM waste must be disposed of in accordance with OGTR guidelines. If sent for incineration it needs to be in a sealed and unbreakable container to ensure the GMOs cannot enter the environment during transportation to the location of incineration. The OGTR Guidelines for the Transport, Storage and Disposal of GMOs can be found at <http://www.ogtr.gov.au/internet/ogtr/publishing.nsf/Content/tsd-guidelines-toc>

## Annual Laboratory Inspections 2016

Thank you to everyone for preparing their PC2 areas for the annual IBC inspections. Thank you to Anesh Nair, Carly Owen and Harris Korres, for acting as inspectors. Please remember that it is compulsory for all staff working with GMOs approved under NLRDs/DNIRs to complete the

Gene Technology Practices and Biological Safety courses. This training needs to be updated every 5 years. Please also remember that training records need to be updated regularly in your facility manuals.

## **Work with any type of GMO must be approved by the IBC**

If you are working with recombinant organisms of any type (including transformed cell lines and routine cloning) **you must have the written approval of the IBC**. The IBC has an obligation to ensure that all GM work is correctly classified and that all GM work classified as non-exempt is monitored. Please email [rdna.officer@anu.edu.au](mailto:rdna.officer@anu.edu.au) describing your work and you will receive prompt and helpful feedback!

## **Visit the IBC Website**

The ANU Recombinant DNA Monitoring Committee has a website and we invite you to visit us at <https://researchservices.anu.edu.au/ori/rdna/index.php>

On our website you can find information about GMOs with links to OGTR requirements, copies of our newsletters, facility inspection requirements, information about applying for a dealing (exempt, NLRD, DNIR or DIR), application forms and more.

## **Need help?**

Contact the IBC Secretary,  
T: 6125 5325  
E: [rdna.officer@anu.edu.au](mailto:rdna.officer@anu.edu.au)  
W: <https://researchservices.anu.edu.au/ori/rdna/index.php>