

NEWSLETTER

Recombinant DNA Monitoring Committee

January 2020

Issue 15

Your IBC

Farewell and thanks to IBC member Kate Hannan, and liaison officers David Mann and Matt Sutton who have resigned from their roles.

Cassandra du Boulay started as IBC secretary in May 2019 and Carly Owen moved across to work with the Animal Ethics area. Sarah Talbot is acting as the RSB animal facility liaison officer.

Outcome of Gene Technology Regulations review

There have been some changes to Schedule 1 of the [Gene Technology Regulations](#) regarding the classification of GMOs. Organisms modified by oligonucleotide-directed mutagenesis, some RNAi applications and some site-directed nuclease (SDN) techniques, including unguided repair of DNA breaks induced by zinc finger nucleases, CRISPR/Cas9, TALENs and mega-nucleases, are no longer classified as GMOs.

These changes came into effect on 8th October 2019 and have resulted in changes to the NLRD application forms and the Gene Technology Practices course. The new forms can be found on our [website](#).

Amendments to Schedules 2 and 3, are expected to take effect on 1 July 2020 and 8 October 2020 respectively.

Risk Assessments submitted as supporting documents with NLRD applications must be on ANU approved template from 01/07/2020 onwards.

Third Review of the National Gene Technology Scheme: Implementing Recommendations

An Issues Paper for the Phase 1 consultation on [Implementing Recommendations of the Third Review of the National Gene Technology Scheme](#) has been produced by the Department of Health. Submissions in response to the Issues Paper were requested and an ANU submission was prepared by the Chair of the IBC.

As part of the consultation process, IBC Chair David Jones and Cassandra du Boulay attended a roundtable discussion hosted by the ACT GTAC in October 2019. Gene Technology Regulator Dr Raj Bhula, Representatives from the OGTR, CSIRO, ANU, Food Standards Australia and other relevant bodies were in attendance.



Drop-in sessions

If your work involves the use of GMOs, animals or human participants then you will need ethics approval prior to starting your work. For help with NLRD applications come to one of our drop in sessions.

When: 9-11 am on the second Wednesday of each month

Where: Geography building #48A Linnaeus Way

Do you know your Local Area Liaison Officer?

Anyone working in a PC2 facility at ANU or TCH should ensure they are familiar with their Local Area Liaison Officer (LALO). If you are moving labs, leaving ANU or have questions specific to your department please contact your LALO or the [rDNA secretary](#)

Area	Liaison Officer
RSB Plant Sciences	Stephanie McCaffery
RSB Biomedical Science and Biochemistry (BSB)	Farid Rahimi
RSB Plant Facilities	Steven Dempsey
RSB Animal Facilities	Sarah Talbot
JCSMR Animal Facilities	Holly Burke
JCSMR Labs	Departmental Lab Managers
RSC	Ruhu Qi
CECS	Beatriz Velasco
TCH	Hannah Clarke

Annual PC2 Facility Inspections

Annual PC2 inspections were conducted in August and September 2019. Thank you to all PC2 laboratory staff for assisting the inspection team.

Please be reminded 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 and training records need to be updated in your facility manuals.

OGTR website feedback session

The [OGTR](#) has been conducting a review of their website to ensure that it meets the needs of their stakeholders. The IBC secretary attended a web session to provide feedback on the content and design of the website.

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 (including exempt work) is correctly classified and that all GM work classified as non-exempt is monitored.

Please email rdna.officer@anu.edu.au describing your work and you will receive prompt and helpful feedback.

Breaches of containment/ Unintentional Releases

Breaches of containment and unintentional releases need to be reported to the OGTR via the [IBC Secretary](#). Liaison Officers should make sure this requirement is widely known in their local area. Local procedures for reporting unintentional releases (which must include reporting to the IBC Secretary) should be included in facility manuals for easy reference.

ANU IBC Website

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

Need help?

Contact the IBC Secretary:

T: 6125 51162

E: rdna.officer@anu.edu.au