

Research Licence Committee Meeting

9 January 2008

21 Bloomsbury Street London WC1B 3HF

MINUTES Item 7

Disaggregation of embryos for the purpose of deriving stem cells from human surplus embryos (R0167)

Based at Bourn Hall Clinic (0100)

Interim Inspection

Members:

Emily Jackson, Lay Member – Chair
Clare Brown, Lay Member
Maybeth Jameson, Consultant Embryologist, Glasgow Royal Infirmary
William Ledger, Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, University of Sheffield

In Attendance:

Graham Miles, Legal Adviser
Chris O'Toole, Head of Research Regulation
Trish Davis, Deputy Chief Executive/Director of Regulation
Joanne McAlpine, Minute Taker
Barbara Lewis, Minute Taker

Providing Scientific Advice:

Neva Haites, Professor of Medical Genetics, University of Aberdeen

Observing:

Elaine Suthers, Inspector

Conflicts of Interest: members of the Committee declared that they had no conflicts of interest in relation to this item.

The following papers were considered by the Committee:

- papers for Licence Committee (38 pages)
- One paper was tabled: Email from Geraldine Hartshorne (6 pages)

1. The papers for this item were presented by Dr Chris O'Toole, Head of Research Regulation. Dr O'Toole informed the Committee that the inspection team felt that no progress had been made on this project based on the evidence of the inspection visit. She went on to say that this centre has connections with centre 0052 Clarendon Wing – Leeds and 0246 University of Cambridge, and the communication between the two centres is not as good as it should be. The inspection team recommended that meetings should take place between the two centres more frequently. Dr O'Toole went on to inform the Committee that the centre are considering obtaining an established cell line from the UK Stem Cell Bank and using it as a learning tool, in order to test/validate the culture system

presently used in their own laboratory. Methodologies were made available for this work and seen to be appropriate.

2 The Committee noted Dr O'Toole's comments that the inspection team recommended in the inspection report regarding that the centre should include information about the use of all of its donated material, either used onsite or transported and used subsequently in collaborative work with other centres as part of the progress report to the Authority. The Committee noted that due to the slow nature of research work undertaken at centre 0246, more culture work is proposed to be undertaken at 0100. To facilitate this centre 0100 are in the process of obtaining an established stem cell line from the UK Stem Cell Bank, and using it as a learning tool, in order to test/ validate the culture system presently used in their own laboratory. On the basis that the centre will not use embryos for this testing/ validation process, the Committee was satisfied that the proposed use of embryos remains necessary for the purpose of the project of research.

3. Subject to the above, the Committee agreed that the centre's licence should continue with no additional conditions.

Signed..... Date.....
Emily Jackson (Chair)