

HFEA Research Licence Committee Meeting

15 September 2010

21 Bloomsbury Street London WC1B 3HF

Minutes – Item 8

Centre 0102 (Guy's Hospital) - Correction to information provided at the Licence Committee meeting on 11 March and 20 May 2009

Members of the Committee:	Committee Secretary:
Emily Jackson (lay) – Chair	Terence Dourado
Andy Greenfield (Professional)	Legal Adviser:
Neva Haites (Professional)	Sarah Ellson, Field Fisher
Clare Lewis-Jones (lay)	Waterhouse LLP

Declarations 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:

- Executive Summary
- Related correspondence from Alan Doran – letter dated 1 July 2010
- Related correspondence from Professor Braude
- Previous Licence Committee minutes
 - 11 March 2009
 - 20 May 2009
- Executive Summaries considered at the March and May 2009 LC meetings
- Interim research reports for R0075 and R0133

The Committee also had before it:

- HFEA Protocol for the Conduct of Licence Committee Meetings and Hearings
- 8th edition of the HFEA Code of Practice
- Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990 (as amended)
- Decision trees for granting and renewing licences and considering requests to vary a licence (including the PGD decision tree)

- Guidance for members of Authority and Committees on the handling of conflicts of interest approved by the Authority on 21 January 2009.
- Guidance on periods for which new or renewed licences should be granted
- Standing Orders and Instrument of Delegation
- Indicative Sanctions Guidance
- HFEA Directions 0000 – 0012
- Guide to Licensing
- Compliance and Enforcement Policy
- Policy on Publication of Authority and Committee Papers

Background:

1. The Licence Committee granted Centre 0102 a licence variation in June 2008 to reflect the relocation of its research project to new premises. At a routine renewal inspection the following year, the Executive noted that the Centre had conducted research work at its initial (and at that point unlicensed) premises. These findings were put before a Licence Committee in March 2009 who requested that the breach be recorded in the Centre's licensing history.
2. In May 2010 the PR requested a further review of the circumstances surrounding the breach and to express his concern that the responsibility for these circumstances had not been properly explained to the Licence Committee.
3. In response to the PR's request, the Executive conducted an internal review of the series of events leading up to the breach. The review of events found that, in an email sent by the PR to the Centre's Inspector on 16 June 2008 the PR stated his intention for the variation to take effect on 01 September 2008. Unfortunately this request was overlooked at the time and the licence variation was processed on the basis that the licence variation would commence on 18 June 2008.
4. The Committee noted the outcome of the Executive's review of events and recorded that the 'breach', reported in 2009, was, in fact, the result of a regrettable administrative error made by the HFEA Executive. The Centre's licensing history must therefore be amended accordingly.
5. Furthermore, it noted that the HFEA Chief Executive had since written to the Centre's PR ~~in~~ to clarify the above and offer an apology.

Signed:

Date:

 24.9.10.

Emily Jackson (Chair)