

HFEA Research Licence Committee Meeting

22 March 2011

21 Bloomsbury Street London WC1B 3HF

Minutes – Item 2

Centre 0078 (IVF Hammersmith) - Voluntary revocation of research licence R0187

Members of the Committee:

Clare Lewis-Jones (lay) – Chair
Andy Greenfield (Professional)
Neva Haites (Professional)

Committee Secretary:

Terence Dourado

Legal Adviser:

Graham Miles, Morgan Cole

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
- Communication from PR dated 16/02/2011
- End of research project report R0187 (including embryo usage data for the period; 01/01/2010 to 29/01/2011)
- Research Licence Committee (RLC) minutes 15 July 2009
- RLC minutes 19 November 2008
- RLC minutes 16 September 2008


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

1. An initial licence for research project R0187 at Centre 0078 was granted in September 2008. The purpose of the research project, 'the vitrification of blastocysts following biopsy at the early-cleavage stage or blastocyst stage of embryo development – A pilot study', was to determine whether vitrification would be a viable method for the cryopreservation of biopsied multiple cells.
2. The research concluded that vitrification appeared to be an efficient method of cryopreserving both blastocysts developed from biopsied and non-biopsied embryos. However, it further determined that more work was needed to improve the cellular survival of blastocysts developed from biopsied early cleavage embryos.
3. The Committee noted that prior to an interim research inspection the Centre's Person Responsible (PR) informed the Executive that the research work had been completed. The Committee noted that the Executive had subsequently received a signed, end of research project report from the PR together with an email, dated 16 February 2011, confirming that the project work had ended and that the licence for the research project should be revoked.
4. The Committee agreed that research licence (R0187-2-A) be revoked with immediate effect, in accordance with the PR's application to that effect, because no further research is to be carried out on the project.

Signed:



Clare Lewis-Jones (Chair)

Date:

