

Research Licence Committee Meeting

18 November 2009

21 Bloomsbury Street London WC1B 3HF

MINUTES Item 6

Research Project R0152: Derivation of human embryonic stem cell lines using nuclear transfer and parthenogenically activated oocytes (0017) Variation to licence R0152

Members of the Committee:

Emily Jackson, Lay Member – Chair
Clare Brown, Lay Member
Neva Haites, Professor of Medical Genetics, University of Aberdeen

In Attendance:

Joanne Anton – Minute taker
Maria Cesay - Observer
Providing Legal Advice to the Committee: 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
 - Application form and letter
 - Lay summary
 - Inspection report (R0145)
 - Progress report (R0152)
 - Progress report (R0145)
 - Progress report (R0153)
 - Licence Committee minutes
 - no papers were tabled.
1. The Committee considered the variation to licence R0152, to encompass activities covered by the centres' other two research licences. (R0145 and R0153). The Committee noted that the licence for project R0145 will expire on 31st December 2009. The Committee noted that an appropriate list of LREC members has not been provided with the renewal application from the centre
 2. The Committee noted that the creation of embryos in vitro is currently a licensed activity for project R0153, and is also a proposed licence activity for the variation to licence R0152.
 3. The Legal Adviser advised that, under section 18A (2) of the 1990 Act, as amended, the Committee had the power to vary research licence R0152 to

encompass the activities covered by licences R0145 and R0153 provided that the Committee was satisfied that the research currently undertaken under 3 separate licences could properly be regarded as one project of research. This was because paragraph (492) of Schedule 2 states that a single licence cannot apply to more than one project of research.

The Committee's Decision

4. The Committee agreed to grant the variation to licence R0152 to encompass activities covered by the centres' other two research licences. (R0145 and R0153). The Committee agreed that it was appropriate to regard the research as a single project of research under the title "Pluripotency, reprogramming and mitochondrial biology during early human development".
5. In reaching this decision the Committee was satisfied that:
 - All current research activities share the same aims
 - The core team working on the research is identical
 - The activities have developed to form an interlinked programme resulting in significant overlap between the 3 currently licensed projects
6. The Committee agreed that, following this variation, the licence for R0145 would expire on 31st December 2009.
7. The Committee noted the concern expressed in page 27 of the inspection report; that an appropriate list of LREC members has not been provided and requested that this information be provided to the Executive as soon as possible.

Signed.....

Emily Jackson (Chair)

Date.....

9.12.09