

Research Licence Committee Meeting

18 November 2009
21 Bloomsbury Street London WC1B 3HF

MINUTES Item 3

Research Project R0067: Biochemistry of early human embryos (0062) Renewal Inspection

Members of the Committee:

In Attendance:

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

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:

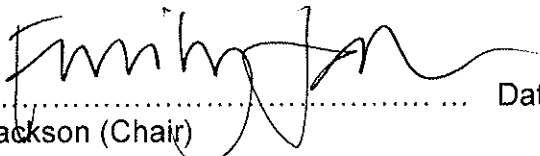
- Renewal Inspection Report
- Peer review
- Application
- Publication List
- Previous Research Licence Committee minutes:
- no papers were tabled.

1. The Committee noted the renewal inspection report. The Committee considered the amendments to the lay summary of the project and recommended that the Person Responsible should include reference to the HFEA's Multiple Births Minimisation Strategy, as another relevant factor in moving towards single embryo transfer.

The Committee's Decision

2. The Committee applied the licensing decision tree in consideration of the application for the renewal of the licence for centre 0062.
3. The Committee identified the activities to be authorised by the licence as the use of donated embryos for research. The Committee agreed that they were satisfied that these activities are not prohibited under the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990 (as amended).

4. In considering stage 18(a) of the decision tree which requires that the activity is necessary and desirable for the purposes specified in paragraph 3A(2) of Schedule 2 to the Act, the Committee considered the purposes of the research project in relation to these requirements.
5. The Committee agreed that the activities are necessary or desirable for the following specified purposes:
 - Promoting advances in the treatment of infertility *Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990 as amended Sch 2 3 A (2)(d)*
 - Increasing knowledge about the development of embryos *Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990 as amended Sch 3A (2)(h)*
 - Increasing knowledge about serious disease *Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990 Sch 3A (2) (a)*
6. In making this decision, the Committee agreed with the opinion of the peer reviewer about the importance of research which might enable clinicians to be able to learn more about which embryos are likely to result in successful pregnancies, which may facilitate higher pregnancy rates from single embryo transfers.
7. The Committee was satisfied that the proposed use of human embryos was necessary for the purpose of the research in order to reveal information about the viability of embryos through non-invasive testing. The Committee also took into account the opinion of the peer reviewer that the future work continues the project's exploration of human embryo biochemistry, which is based on and complementary to animal research.
8. The Committee was satisfied that ethics committee approval for the research project had been granted and that the patient information has been updated following the considerations from the 2008 report.
9. The Committee agreed to grant a 3 year licence with no additional conditions.

Signed.......... Date..... 9.12.09

Emily Jackson (Chair)