

SABC Users' Committee Meeting
Wednesday 27 April, 2005
11.30am, SABC Large Seminar Room 2.36

Minutes

Present: Mike Jones, Frances Brigg, Dave Hodgson, Moira Desport, Carolyn Read,
Dave Berryman, Steve Wylie, Lars Kamphuis, Andrea Tongue

Meeting opened at 10.00am

1. **Apologies:** Phil O'Brien, Dave Hodgson, Marie Scobie, Scott McNeil
2. **Welcome to new member.** Mike Jones thanked Robert Lee for his contributions to the User's Committee and welcomed his replacement Lars Kamphuis.

3. Acceptance of minutes

Minutes of the previous meeting of 2 March, 2005 were accepted as an accurate record.

4. Matters Arising

Safety Glasses

John Christie is now the person at Murdoch responsible for Health and Safety. He has advised that the Murdoch University Health and Safety policy will be available on-line. The Murdoch policy is the same as that for Standards Australia as far as it is practicable.

Feedback on SABC Biobar

Everyone seems to be satisfied with the range of products stocked in the Biobar. Approximate turnover is \$200,000 p.a. with a saving of at least 10% to researchers.

5. Laboratory Issues

There have been recent incidents of PCR machines being interfered with, PCR reactions have been turned off, lids taken off and tubes removed. It was also noted that bookings times are being made for much longer time periods than required, also names and contact numbers are not being provided with the booking. Dave Berryman advised that in the past, blocks of 4 hour periods were set out e.g. 8am – midday, 1pm – 4pm, and 4pm – overnight. It was generally the accepted rule that if it is 15-20 minutes into the booking time and the person has not turned up, then someone else is permitted to take that slot, provided they will not run over time into the next booking period. Dave will send out an email reminding researchers of this.

Francis also requested groups to delete old programs taking up space in the PCR machines.

Equipment repairs/timeframes

The time taken for the small autoclave to be repaired was raised. Dave responded that the small autoclave can only be repaired by Radiometer Pacific, who are based in the Eastern States and have a representative in Perth. The authorized service person has been away on leave, then when he checked the autoclave, advised that it needed a new seal which had to come from overseas. So the time to repair the item ended up taking weeks rather than days. Unfortunately there is no alternative company to use.

It was requested that if it was possible persons logging job repairs should be kept up to date on the status of the repair, since even though jobs were being written in the repairs book, feedback wasn't being provided on how long the repair might take, or when the relevant item of equipment would be back in service. Dave advised this would be possible, however both he and Francis raised the point that often more detail on the type of repair needed to be included rather than just 'broken', and to include a contact name and extension as often these details are omitted.

Large autoclave door difficult to open

Gettine have advised they do not know why the door to the large autoclave is sticking. They have been and checked the equipment and replaced all relevant parts and solenoids. They have not come across this particular problem before and are investigating the matter further. Dave will follow up as he has heard nothing since.

There has also been a problem with spillage when pulling the trays out of the autoclave. When autoclaving, the bags should be properly sealed and water tight, bottles should not be filled too full as there is the potential for explosion and it is a dangerous practice.

6. AOB

Gel tanks and associated items are in rather short supply and it was requested that additional trays and combs could be purchased.

Mike advised that currently the SABC does not have any spare funds for equipment, and that groups need to get together to purchase minor items. Dave said that he would check the SABC labs and see where all the items are, and ensure there is an even distribution of tanks and combs between the labs. Some of the items when broken can be repaired rather than thrown away.

Frances said that the new capillaries have been installed in the DNA sequencer. She also explained to the committee the cause of dye blobs on sequences and the different options and the pros and cons of these options to reduce dye blobs. She advised that researchers doing sequencing need to optimize the sequence reaction so that the dye is used up, thereby reducing the possibility of dye blobs.

The laptop computer that goes with the projector has been running very slowly, and the cause of this appears to be the memory stack. Dave will have this repaired.

Meeting closed 11am. Next meeting will be held on Wednesday 29th June at 11.30am.