

# **SABC Users' Committee Meeting**

**Wednesday 7 September, 2005**  
**11.30am, SABC Large Seminar Room 2.36**

## **Minutes**

Present: Mike Jones Frances Brigg, Dave Hodgson, Moira Desport, Linda McInnes, Dave Berryman, Lars Kamphuis, Marie Scobie, Phil O'Brien, Scott McNeil, Andrea Tongue

Meeting opened at 11.30am

**1. Apologies:** Zhaohui Wang

**2. Welcome to new member.** Mike thanked Steve Wylie for his contribution to the User's Committee and advised that Zhaohui Wang would replace him.

**3. Acceptance of minutes**

Minutes of the previous meeting of 29 June, 2005 were accepted as an accurate record.

**4. Matters Arising**

### Gel Combs

Dave has been looking for gel combs, and found a large number in cupboards in various locations. These will be evenly redistributed.

### Chemical lists

The chemical lists are almost finalized, with a few of outstanding details to complete. If anyone buys any new chemicals, then they need to provide the details to Frances straight away. A short meeting will need to be held, to remind SABC researchers about how to store and handle chemicals correctly. Francis will organise this. The chemical list is in the folder together with the MSDS's and is located in the cabinet next to the emergency shower. This list also includes recommended storage locations. The chemical lists will eventually be located on a central database. The database is now being tested and a suitable timescale for implementation worked out, groups will then be trained to enable them to use it.

### Autoclave

A replacement autoclave has been added to the equipment wishlist. It is a difficult item to replace in terms of obtaining funding. Different options will be looked for its replacement. Dave Hodgson advised that the Health Clinic had a small autoclave instruments available.

### Equipment Wishlist

DAWA researchers indicated a strong need for a replacement for the Biomek 2000. A request for a robotic workstation was put together with a package for a plate reader to obtain a good price. Two companies have come back to us with prices. In addition the Multiprobe workstation has only been used by one group, and if it is sold/traded then approximately \$35,000 - \$40,000 will be realized which could contribute towards the package.

The Board of R&D was asked for \$10,000 towards the cost of the workstation: although this would have been a 6 fold leverage on funds, the request was not supported.

Nanodrop (\$14,500) – funding requested from the DAWA was not successful for this item. However \$12,000 has been raised, and if the ACNFP could contribute the final \$2,250 then it can be purchased.

The Equipment Wishlist will be updated. If you have any suggestions please forward them to Mike, but also include why, research application (it needs to be useful to a range of groups) and a price/quote.

### Computers

The SABC needs a number of computers to go with instruments, and to replace the Macs in the resource room. Phil Hocking provided a list of computers that are coming up to the end of lease and the prices are very good (\$400 - \$800) if anyone is interested. The SABC will purchase some of these.

## **5. ARWA Update**

Mike advised that complex negotiations are taking place regarding the establishment of ARWA. There are in fact a number of issues being discussed: in addition to the creation of ARWA and the devolution of DAWA R&D from South Perth, there is also the proposed Curtin merger and the fact that RPH is going to move to Murdoch next to St. John of God Hospital and become the Fiona Stanley Hospital. Simon Mallal who has \$18 million of research funding partly from the Bill Gates Foundation and the State Government, also requires a building.

The train station at South Street is going to be 5 floors, with shops etc.

The initial DAWA building will be a \$30 million Biosecurity building at Murdoch to be started in July 2007: Biosecurity is about 90% regulatory and 10% R&D/diagnostic services.

The location of DAWA Headquarters is still a political issue, 2 MP's want it located in their electorates, one of them being Armadale. It will probably be located at Murdoch, but the final decision is still to be made.

## **6. AOB**

Phil O'Brien reported that AQIS is rapidly trying to implement a regulatory system and tighten up on quarantine issues. New criteria are being put in place. This applies in particular to PC2 material. A lab will now have to be AQIS certified and inspected – equivalent to OGTR. There are only 2 inspectors, both based in the eastern states. Any inspection will have to be paid for. The SABC should be AQIS certified. Any lab holding PC2 material has to have a separate certification. Each lab also requires a person to have undertaken the AQIS training.

The SABC floors will be stripped on the weekend of 17/18 of September. Please contact Dave or Francis if this is going to cause a problem with any groups.

DAWA would like to have the 377 sequencer transferred to South Perth. This was agreed to as researchers in the SABC no longer use this sequencer.

A query was raised by one of the groups, who thought that use of DNA in the PC R room hoods was not permitted. Dave advised that this was not the case as some groups need to perform nested PCRs in the hoods.

Meeting closed 12.30pm . Next meeting will be held on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> October at 11.30am.