

# The Scripps Research Institute IBC

How a not-for-profit research  
institute runs its IBC

# TSRI La Jolla Campus



Who are we?



# TSRI - History

- Scripps Metabolic Clinic was founded in 1924 by Ellen Browning Scripps
- Scripps Clinic and Research Foundation, 1946
- Department of Experimental Pathology founded 1961 by Frank Dixon and colleagues from the University of Pittsburgh
- Research Institute of Scripps Clinic, 1977
- The Scripps Research Institute (La Jolla), 1991
- Scripps Florida (Jupiter), 2003

# TSRI IBC Statistics

- TSRI is one of the world's largest not-for-profit research institutes
- 1 million square feet of laboratory space
- TSRI La Jolla has 2,600 employees
  - 225 faculty
  - 209 graduate students
    - PhD programs in Chemistry and Biology ranked in the top 10 by the US News and World Report
  - 639 post docs
- Basic biomedical research

# IBC – scope of responsibilities

- R-DNA work
- Biohazards
- Toxins of biological origin
- Select agents
- BSL-3 labs
- Issues of interest – advise the administration
  - Occ Med decisions
  - Infrastructure problems
  - Biosecurity

# IBC – Reporting structure of staff

- BSO – EH&S position (EH&S Director)
  - Reports to the Vice President of Research Services
- BSL-3 Manager – manages 4 BSL-3 facilities (two with ABSL-3)
  - Reports to BSO
  - BSL-3 training
  - Outfitting the labs
- Biosafety coordinator – performs inspections of all registered labs
  - reports to BSO

# IBC – Processes (form)

- Registration form
  - Online
  - Nine sections
  - Everyone fills out form 1 and form 7
  - Other forms are filled out as needed.
  - Forms are pdf forms signed digitally, sent to the BSO's administrative assistant
  - The administrative assistant reviews the forms and checks personnel training.
  - All personnel including the PI must have completed online biosafety training.



# Registration form

## [I. TSRI Biosafety Registration: Facility Form](#)

All investigators who use any biological materials complete this section

## [II. TSRI Microbiological Hazard Registration Form](#)

Investigators who use infectious agents or other microbiological biohazards complete this section

## [III. TSRI R-DNA Registration Form](#)

Investigators who use recombinant DNA complete this section

## [IV. TSRI Mammalian Cell Registration Form](#)

Investigators who use mammalian cell lines complete this section

## [V. TSRI Acute Toxins Registration Form](#)

Investigators who use acute toxins ( $LD50 < 100 \mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$ ) complete this section

## [VI. TSRI Biohazards in Animals Registration Form](#)

Investigators who use animals with biohazards, toxins, or recombinant materials complete this section

## [VII. Project Approval Form](#)

IBC Chair and/or BSO complete this section

## [VII. Flow Cytometry Form](#)

Investigators who will perform Flow Cytometry on cells and cell lines with biohazards complete this section

## [IX. Biosafety Procedures Form](#)

Investigators needing to register biohazard procedures with the IBC should complete this section

# IBC – Processes (review of form)

- If training and administrative tasks are complete, admin prints forms for review by the BSO.
- BSO performs scientific review and checks occupational medicine requirements.
- Form is sent electronically to the IBC chair.
- IBC chair reviews and can provide an expedited approval for some projects.
- IBC meets and reviews all registration documents.
- IBC enters into a discussion on anything anyone has questions about.

# How to recruit members

- VP of Research Services appoints members
- IBC Chair and BSO give advice on potential members.
- Community members
  - Chosen from a local high school and health care provider.
  - Have enjoyed their membership.
  - Both have been on the TSRI IBC for about 10 years.
  - Ask interesting questions and provide community point of view.

# Conflicts of Interest

- PI on the committee may be asked to wait outside.
- Usually not an issue.

# Public involvement

- IBC meetings are advertised on the public version of the TSRI website.
- We ask the community members about their thoughts on issues, as appropriate.

# IBC Charter & Information

- Look in your binder
- Published on our web site

# Number of registrations – new

- In 2008, we approved 64 IBC project registrations
  - 38 registrations involved microbiological hazards
  - 17 R-DNA
  - 20 mammalian cell lines
  - 9 toxins
  - 14 flow cytometry

# Number of registrations – annual updates

- In 2008, we completed 440 annual updates for a combination of microbiological hazards, R-DNA, toxins and mammalian cell lines



# Type of membership on the IBC

- IBC position
  - Chair (virologist)
  - Vice chair (virologist)
  - Laboratory technical staff member
  - Animal containment expert
  - IACUC Director
  - BSO
  - BSL-3 manager
  - Community members (2)
  - PIs (include MD, bacteriologist, molecular and cellular biologist, X-ray crystallographer)

# IBC membership – TSRI departments represented

- Immunology and Microbial Sciences
- Environmental Health & Safety
- Animal Resources
- IACUC Office
- Cell Biology
- Molecular and Experimental Medicine
- Molecular Biology

# Care and nurture of the members

- Meetings are one hour
- Meetings are scheduled in advance around the TSRI seminar schedule
- EH&S pays for coffee, water and cookies!

# Strategies for capturing research

- In house list requests reagents
- IACUC protocols
- Word of mouth
- Grant applications

# Medical surveillance program

- IBC suggests policy regarding the offering of vaccinations and tests
- We offer vaccinations for a variety of agents, based upon the advice of our occupational medicine physician
- Almost no baseline serum sampling
- HIV tests offered
- HBV and HCV tests offered to labs that use the agents

# Training

- IBC members
  - Trained at the meetings by the BSO
  - Trained on new regulations, information from OBA, standards, points of interest
  - Trained on new/safer scientific methods by IBC Chair or a PI
  - Findings that impact safety are brought up and discussed by PIs
- Research staff
  - Online training required

# Online Biosafety Training

## Microbiological Hazard Training

- You have chosen to take one or more of the training sections. Make your selection below.
- I have not taken any web-based Biosafety training -- take me to [section 1 \(basic training\)](#)
- I have completed section 1, and now need information about the specific agents with which I will work. Take me to [section 2 \(infectious agents\)](#).
- I have completed sections 1 & 2, but I will be working in animal models of infection. Take me to [section 3 \(animal biosafety\)](#).
- I have completed sections 1 & 2, but I will be working with a BSL-3 (P3) agent - take me to [section 4 \(P3 training\)](#).

# Unique challenges of your institution

- Your unique culture
- Geographic location
- Regional/state/local issues
- Financial situation



