

**CANADIAN BIOTECHNOLOGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
(CBAC)**

**January 20, 2000
Minutes**

Minutes of the third meeting held on January 20, 2000, at the Château Laurier Hotel in Ottawa ON.

In attendance:

Members: Arnold Naimark, Chair; Mary Alton Mackey; Lorne Babiuk; Françoise Baylis; Gloria Bishop; Richard Black; Timothy Caulfield; Pierre Coulombe; Arthur Hanson; Michael Hayden; Suzanne Hendricks; Murray McLaughlin; Anne Mitchell; Peter W.B. Phillips; René Simard; Jonathan Bjorn Syms; Denny Warner (Regrets: Robert Church; Thomas J. Hudson; Bartha Maria Knoppers; and Douglas Powell)

Staff: Canadian Biotechnology Secretariat (CBSec) - Roy Atkinson; Norma Burlington; Mary Moreland; Linda Williams; Nicole Latour; Diane Fournier; Kathleen Felton; Gina Gill; and Lisa Johnston

1. Opening Remarks

- 1.1 Dr. Naimark introduced Norma Burlington as the new A/Director of Operations in the CBSec and noted she would be responsible for CBAC work and issues.

Dr. Naimark indicated that this was a key meeting for CBAC in preparation for their meeting with the Biotechnology Ministerial Coordinating Committee currently scheduled for February 17, 2000. He noted the prime focus for the meeting was to arrive at a consensus on their work plan so it could be discussed with and approved by the members of BMCC on February 17.

- 1.2 Norma Burlington introduced Diane Fournier as the new Administrative Officer for CBAC and the three coop students from Simon Fraser University who would be assisting CBAC in its work.

2. Minutes of the meeting of November 17-18, 1999

- 2.1 The point was raised that acronyms should be defined at the point of first usage.
- 2.2 The minutes were approved by the Committee and it was agreed that the minutes from November 17-18, 1999 and October 13-15, 1999, be posted on the CBAC Web site.

3. Update on Expert Scientific Panel (EP)

- 3.1 Dr. Naimark provided an update on the EP, noting that he had spoken to Dr. William Leiss, (President of the Royal Society of Canada). They agreed to communicate from time to time about progress while respecting the independence of the EP.
- 3.2 The EP is expected to meet by the end of February 2000 and their first report is expected to be made public within eight months after the panel has been selected. The panel will be independent and will operate at arms length from the government.
- 3.3 The output of the EP will be considered as input for CBAC, in consideration of the larger issues around GM foods. A CBAC public consultation process in the fall of 2000 is under consideration which would take into account Canadians' views.
- 3.4 Dr. Naimark indicated that he would be calling the EP Chair, Dr. Leiss, following the meeting with the BMCC in order to share with him the CBAC work plan.

4. CBAC Program Plan

- 4.1 Dr. Naimark noted that the CBAC Program Plan is a living document, subject to change due to new developments and considerations.
- 4.2 Special Projects

The following special projects including editorial changes to the project descriptions were approved by the CBAC Committee of the whole. These projects will now be turned over to the Project Steering Committees, who will be responsible for implementing the projects

- **P1: The regulation of genetically-modified (GM) foods**
- **P2: The protection and exploitation of biotechnological intellectual property**

- **P2a: Patenting of higher life forms**
- **P3: Development of an “Ethics Framework” for biotechnology**
- **P4: Policy implications of the use of genetically modified cells or organisms**

(The project title will be changed to: “Policy Implications of the Use of Novel Genetically-Based Interventions: Embryonic/Fetal Cells, Other Stem Cells, Cloning, Xenotransplantation and Gene Therapy”).

- **P5: Genetic privacy**

5. CBAC Work Plan Management Structure

Dr. Naimark proposed a work plan management structure to members (see Tab 4). This structure was approved as set out. The draft terms of reference of the Project Steering Committees was also agreed upon with two minor changes (see Tab ??). The notional budget was also approved by CBAC members as set out by the chair.

6. Selection of Members to Project Steering Committees

CBAC members were assigned to work on the following Project Steering Committees:

P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6
Suzanne Hendricks (Chair)	Peter W.B. Phillips (Chair)	Bartha Maria Knoppers (Chair)	Arthur Hanson (Chair)	Timothy Caulfield (Chair)	Michael Hayden (Chair)
Mary Alton Mackey	Lorne Babiuk	Robert Church	Bartha Maria Knoppers	Lorne Babiuk	Gloria Bishop
Richard Black	Richard Black	Pierre Coulombe	Murray McLaughlin	Françoise Baylis	Suzanne Hendricks
Arthur Hanson	Timothy Caulfield	Thomas Hudson	Anne Mitchell	Gloria Bishop	Thomas Hudson
Murray McLaughlin	Robert Church	Anne Mitchell	Jonathan Bjorn Syms	Mary Alton Mackey	René Simard
Peter W.B. Phillips	Pierre Coulombe	René Simard		Douglas Powell	Denny Warner
Douglas Powell	Michael Hayden			Jonathan Bjorn Syms	
	Denny Warner				

7. **Annual Report**

- 7.1 The annual report is meant to serve as an annual review on biotechnology developments current and future. It will be produced in the fall, one year after the appointment of members to CBAC, and will be in keeping with the CBAC mandate to be open, transparent and engage the public. It will be a “public communication vehicle” with the key audience likely to be stakeholders but will also be available to the public in hard copy and via the CBAC public Web site.
- 7.2 It was proposed that the final section in the annual report be entitled “CBAC Activities”, which will be used to present a complete inventory of CBAC research, presentations, consultations, and publications. This section is to include all references and a bibliography.
- 7.3 The members approved the annual report draft outline, pending the change noted in mentioned in 7.2.

8. **Biotechnology Ministerial Coordinating Committee (BMCC) and CBAC Program Plan**

- 8.1 A meeting has been scheduled for February 17, 2000, between CBAC and the BMCC. CBAC will present its proposed work plan to the BMCC for discussion and approval.
- 8.2 Dr. Naimark indicated that he would like to have several members of the Committee to assist him at this meeting. A number of members indicated their interest and availability and Dr. Naimark said he would follow-up with them after the CBAC meeting.
- 8.3 Dr. Naimark discussed with members having a press release following the CBAC-BMCC meeting and there was general agreement to this suggestion.

9. **Business Arising from the Previous Meeting**

- 9.1 Conflict of Interest: all members present signed the document entitled “Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality Guidelines”, which indicated they agreed to the guidelines.
- 9.2 Members’ Liability: the CBSec indicated that it would look into this matter and would report back to CBAC.

9.3 Report on the Web site

- Norma Burlington (CBSec) reported that the public and private CBAC Web sites will be functioning by the end of January 2000. In February 2000, the Web site will be enhanced and training will be undertaken. In March 2000, a correspondence tracking system is expected to be functioning.
- The CBAC Chair announced that he would like to post a “Letter from the Chair”, noting new developments, conferences, and the activities of CBAC members on the public CBAC Web site.

9.4 Schedule of Meetings

- It was agreed that the next CBAC meeting on March 23, 2000, will be held in the morning, and then the Project Steering Committees meet in the afternoon. Prior to this meeting, the Project Steering Committees are encouraged to meet, or speak by teleconference or via the web.

10. **Conclusions and Next Steps**

10.1 Budget

- Process of acquiring funds: the chairperson of each Project Steering Committee is to approach Norma Burlington (CBSec) in order to seek financing for their respective projects.
- A contracting guideline would be circulated by the CBSec.
- Note was made of the need to commit funds in the notional budget for January-March 2000 soon in order that deliverables could be made by the end of March 2000 and funds disbursed.

10.2 CBAC Graphic Identifier

- Three graphic options were presented to CBAC Members for discussion.
- It was concluded that none of the options was satisfactory. Dr. Naimark is to consult with Ms. Gloria Bishop on alternatives.

10.3 Upcoming Events for CBAC Members

- Some members of CBAC are attending the International Bioethics Meeting in London, England in September 2000. The question of authorship was raised, which led to the issue of “individual member vs. committee of the whole”. It was decided that should a member be asked by CBAC to speak at a conference, the views expressed by the individual would reflect his/her own ideas, and not necessarily those of CBAC as a whole.
- The Human Genome Project Meeting will take place in Vancouver, British Columbia in April 2000. It was agreed that CBAC will be have a kiosk at the event.

11. **Next Meeting**

Thursday, 23 March, 2000
Ottawa ON

Approved: Dr. Arnold Naimark
Chair, Canadian Biotechnology
Advisory Committee (CBAC)

Date: