

Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene
Board of Directors Meeting
April 21, 2009
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
2601 Agriculture Drive, Madison, Wisconsin

APPROVED MINUTES
February 24, 2009

MEMBERS PRESENT: David Taylor (Chair), Darrell Bazzell (Vice-Chair), Robert Bagley, Dr. Charles Brokopp, Susan Buroker, Dr. Seth Foldy, Dr. Bernard Poeschel, Michael Ricker, Michael Russell, Thomas Sieger, and Jack Sullivan

MEMBERS ABSENT: John Stanley

WSLH STAFF PRESENT: Mei Baker, Terry Burk, John Chapin, David Degenhardt, Sherry Gehl, Steve Geis, George Gruetzmacher, David Hassemer, Barbara Hensen, Jan Klawitter, Kathy Kuno, Dr. Ronald Laessig, Garrett Peterson, Dr. Peter Shult, Dr. Bill Sonzogni, and Jim Sterk

DNR STAFF PRESENT: Ron Arneson and David Webb

GUEST PRESENT: No guests present

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Chair David Taylor.

Item 1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Approve minutes of the November 18, 2008 board meeting as submitted. Mr. David Taylor made a motion to approve. Mr. Jack Sullivan moved to approve, seconded by Dr. Bernard Poeschel. The motion passed on a voice vote. (016:0808)

Item 2. REORGANIZATION OF THE AGENDA

None.

Item 3. PUBLIC APPEARANCES

There were no public appearances.

Item 4. SCIENTIFIC PRESENTATION

A) Severe Combined Immunodeficiency Disease Grant

Dr. Ronald Laessig reported on the Severe Combined Immunodeficiency Disease grant. Wisconsin (WSLH) has become one of two nationwide programs to receive grant funding to implement routine screening for SCID. The grant, effective October 1, 2008, is for three years and a total of \$1,500,000. The major focus of the grant is to (1) Demonstrate feasibility of NBS for SCID, (2) Discern basic SCID-related data such as normal ranges; incidence rates, etc., and (3) Develop laboratory protocols suitable for other states to implement. The grant will cover the costs of routine screening and developmental research.

On January 1, 2008 the Wisconsin NBS program began screening for Severe Combined Immunodeficiencies (SCID) – also known as “Bubble Boy Disease.” SCID-afflicted newborns do not produce T-Cells and hence have no immune system. Typically they succumb to common childhood infections within the first year of life. Hematopoietic stem cell transplantation, performed at less than 3.5 months, has been demonstrated to be at least 95% successful (curative).

The laboratory methodology is based on the real-time PCR assay of T-Cell Receptor Excision Circles (TRECs) obtained by DNA extraction from 1/8” dried filter paper blood spots. TRECs are a by product of T-Cell synthesis in the thymus. They serve as a surrogate marker for the number of naïve T-Cells that have recently

emigrated into the peripheral blood from the thymus. Low or zero TRECs (i.e., positive screening finding) suggest an absence of T-Cells and require follow-up using flow cytometric techniques.

The true incidence of SCID is unknown; estimates range from 1/25,000 to 1/100,000 births. Wisconsin screens approximately 70,000/year at an initial (estimated) cost of \$6.00 per newborn. Utilization of a first tier, PCR-DNA extraction based assay presents some unique technical and logistical challenges for the NBS laboratory. These include developing processing/reporting algorithms which minimize the incidence of “false positives” due to failure to extract or amplify DNA in some samples. The inherent imprecision of micro-sample PCR methods is also a major consideration.

Preliminary cost-benefit data from Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin, based on 5 cases of SCID clinically diagnosed and treated (post 3.5 months of age) and one case diagnosed at less than one month (sibling of a SCID baby) suggest that the average cost of the clinically diagnosed cases was \$2,200,000 each; the cost of the early diagnosis and successful bone marrow transplant was less than \$350,000. A preliminary finding of the current study demonstrates that very low birth weight babies (i.e., premature births in the NICU) do not initially demonstrate TRECs but develop them in subsequent serial samples.

As of November 2008, we can unofficially report on results from approximately 60,000 routine assays. The findings to date include:

- No true SCID babies found to date
- One infant with DiGeorge Syndrome – being treated in CHW
- One Down’s Syndrome infant – septic at time of NBS
- One idiopathic T-cell lymphopenia, being followed
- One infant with leukocyte migration defect – transplanted 9/25/2008

Item 5. SECOND QUARTER FINANCIAL REPORT

Ms. Sherry Gehl presented the FY2009 second quarter financial report for October 1, 2008 – December 31, 2008. She stated total support and revenue were under budget by \$22K (.1%) and that this is not unusual at the end of the second quarter due to the holidays and the slower winter season. She added that expenses were over budget by \$338K (1.7%) Supplies and services were over budget by \$120K. Changes in personnel costs affected the budget. A wage settlement that went into effect in October and an increase in the cost of health benefits negatively impacted the budget. Salary variances are positive but WSLH is carrying a >10 vacancies. The second quarter ended with a net operating loss of (\$650K), an unfavorable variance of (\$360K).

The comparative income statement shows revenues increased 5.12% and expenses increased 3.51% in the second quarter of 2009 compared to the second quarter of 2008.

The annual revenue budget for FY09 is \$39M, an increase of \$1.2M compared to FY08.

The comparative balance sheet shows that at the end of FY2008, assets increased by \$1.2M and liabilities increased by \$1.4M. Both increases reflect the cycle of proficiency testing at the end of the calendar year when the program obtains receivables. The available working capital balance at the end of 2008 was \$240K.

In summary:

- WSLH was over budget at the end of second quarter driven by the expense side of the budget
 - Personnel costs are greater than expected
- Revenues are on budget, but WOHL fee-for-service revenue has decreased

Ms. Gehl asked if there were any questions.

Mr. Jack Sullivan stated he didn’t have any questions about the second quarter report, but said he was interested in what Mr. Darrell Bazzell had to report about 2009 - 2011 GPR reductions and how the state’s new budget might affect the state lab.

Mr. Bazzell stated the university system has been asked to reduce its budget by \$100M over a 2-year funding period. He said there will be a tuition increase but does not think it will be substantial. He also said the governor is proposing a 1% reduction in all state appropriations and will exempt gift funding. He is anticipating a 1% cut in GPR funding (\$4M). Mr. Bazzell added that the university does not have a hiring freeze in place but the Deans have been asked to review each vacancy before deciding to fill positions. He also felt the amount of actual reductions will be less than expected. He said the new stimulus package will result in a 30%-40% increase in federal funds for research. The challenge will be to get the funds out on the street and spent in two years. He said the transparency and accountability will be much greater. He expects the stimulus package will create new jobs and there will be funds available for infrastructure.

Item 6. CONTRACT REPORTS

- A) Government Agencies -for Information and Discussion (18)
- B) Private Contracts (0)

Ms. Gehl stated that there were no contracts that needed board approval.

Item 7. 2009-2014 STRATEGIC PLAN

Mr. John Chapin thanked WSLH staff and Mr. Thomas Sieger, Mr. David Webb, Ms. Sandy Breitborde and Mr. Jack Sullivan for their contributions to the 2009-2014 Strategic Plan. Mr. Chapin presented a high level overview of the plan for the board's approval:

Goal 1. Business Process Improvement

By June 2014 the WSLH will have identified, standardized and unified WSLH-wide business processes and have implemented supporting business procedures, policy and technology in order to efficiently carry out our enterprise mission.

Goal 2. Laboratory Excellence

By June 2014 the WSLH will have secured an enterprise position of laboratory excellence with leadership within the state and national public health laboratory community and scientific partnerships within the UW-Madison.

Goal 3. Financial Viability

By June 2014 ensure the financial viability of WSLH by generating sufficient annual net revenue in order to sustain and grow the physical, technological and human capital of the lab required for our mission and to attain board-determined reserve requirements.

Goal 4. Workforce Development

By June 2014 WSLH will have implemented an internal workforce development plan to ensure continued laboratory workforce excellence and leadership succession.

Goal 5. Informatics

By 2013 WSLH will have developed an integrated IT infrastructure for the central support of WSLH labs and common business processes with industry standard technology.

Mr. Chapin asked board members to think about which strategies they think WSLH should focus on. Mr. Taylor commented that the plan is more streamlined and intuitive than the original version. Mr. Sieger said it is great WSLH is focusing on infrastructure. Dr. Poeschel commented on how important it is for an organization like WSLH to standardize informatics.

Mr. Jack Sullivan made a motion to approve the 2009-2014 Strategic Plan. Mr. Robert Bagley seconded. The motion passed.

Item 8. WSLH ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES

Dr. Brokopp presented a summary of WSLH organizational changes and reassignments to the board. He stated that the changes were being made to enhance the organization, and the programs and services provided by the WSLH.

The consolidation of all occupational health activities within a single division combines the laboratory, surveillance and occupational consultation activities.

Personnel changes will become effective on March 1, 2009 and involve the reassignment of existing staff, many of whom have been prepared to assume additional roles within the organization. The changes will not result in any additional FTE's.

1. Establishment of the Division of Occupational Health (DOH).
 - Appointment of Terry Burk to Division Director
 - Appointment of Terry Moen to supervisor of the Occupational Consultation Program
 - Consolidate health and safety consultation programs
 - Move Occupational Safety and Health Statistics from DPHIS to DOH
 - Maintain shared laboratories with Environmental Health Division
 - Maintain shared shipping, receiving and customer support at the Agriculture Drive lab
 - Establish collaboration with UW Safety Department
2. Establishment of a Laboratory Systems Coordinator — Steve Marshall — contact for the Institute for Clinical and Translational Research at the university. He will also lead the Enterprise Business Process (EPB) team.
3. Move public relations activity from Laboratory Improvement Division to Director's Office
4. Assignment of John Chapin to lead the Resource Division
5. Assignment of Garrett Peterson to Acting Division Director for Public Health Informatics and Surveillance

Item 9. STATE OF THE WISCONSIN STATE LABORATORY OF HYGIENE

Dr. Brokopp presented the annual "State of the State Laboratory of Hygiene" report. He used the opportunity to update the board on WSLH's major activities during calendar year 2008. He began by giving a short history of the WSLH, including the laboratory's contribution to the "Wisconsin Idea," and how historically, the WSLH Lab has been a public health lab operating for the benefit of the public within the state.

Dr. Brokopp discussed revenues and expenditures by division. He stated that revenues generated by the disease prevention, environmental, lab improvement, and communicable disease divisions fund other laboratory programs.

He also discussed WSLH fiscal goals as they relate to the 2009-2014 Strategic Plan. During the next five years he expects a 10% increase in the proportions of base funding of non-state agency grants and fee for service testing; a 10% decrease in the proportion of base funding for state agencies; and a 10% increase in total revenue. By 2014 he projects the bottom line will increase by approximately \$4M.

Dr. Brokopp reviewed for the board the various roles of WSLH.

Teaching: WSLH staff members contribute to the academic mission of the UW campus

Research: Examples of current research projects include: drinking water in hospitals, microbial source tracking, air pollution, influenza resistance and cytogenetics. WSLH's designation as an ICTR Core Laboratory has lead to several new research projects.

Collaborate: WSLH's partnerships with public health, clinicians, laboratories, academic institutions, private foundations, and professional associations were highlighted

Protect: Newborn screening, cytology and cytogenetics, emergency response and preparedness, surveillance and forensic toxicology

Advise: WSLH staff are active advisors to a host of national organizations: CDC, EPA, OSHA, state organizations, medical examiners, clinical lab associations, and University of Wisconsin committees

Dr. Brokopp stated that he feels the WSLH has to do a better job of promoting what we do and the value of what we bring to the citizens of Wisconsin.

Item 10. WSLH BUILDING UPDATE

Dr. Brokopp reported that at the last meeting, the board approved WSLH to continue to pursue the option of working with DOA to build a small lab (<20,000 sq. ft.) in cooperation with DATCP. The board also approved either a remodel of Henry Mall or relocating WSLH to another location on the university campus. Since the board last met, DOA has prepared a request for a 72,000 sq. ft. laboratory building and has developed a capital funding request to present to the state's Building Commission in mid-March. Dr. Brokopp also reported that WSLH has had positive discussions with the School of Medicine and Public Health and UW Facilities and Planning management to discuss options located on campus. One option presented was WSLH relocating to one of the Wisconsin Institute of Medicine Research towers to be constructed on campus. It was also suggested that in the interim, WSLH could relocate temporarily to another location on campus. Dr. Brokopp stated that WSLH has drafted a memorandum of understanding with the School of Medicine that is currently being reviewed.

Item 11. PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS UPDATE

Dr. Brokopp reported that last year, at the direction of the federal government, the WSLH participated in a massive effort led by the Wisconsin Division of Public Health (and involving all other state agencies) to update and further develop Wisconsin's State Pandemic Influenza Operational Plan. As in all other states, the plan was submitted to the federal government to determine an overall grade for all-sector pandemic readiness in Wisconsin.

The federal report was made public in January. Wisconsin scored very well and was among the top tier of states in pandemic readiness. The results of this report may influence millions of dollars of future preparedness funding to Wisconsin.

Wisconsin fared particularly well in the areas of public health and communications. Most notable from the WSLH perspective is the fact that the section of the plan dealing specifically with surveillance and laboratory capability during each phase of the pandemic received a grade of 100%. This is a tribute to the close collaborative relationship that exists between the WSLH Communicable Disease Division and WDPH Communicable Disease Epidemiology Section and the novel approaches that together we have developed over the years in the areas of influenza surveillance and laboratory diagnosis, as well as pandemic preparedness and response.

Dr. Brokopp also announced that Wisconsin earned a perfect score in the 2008 Public Health Preparedness report published by the Trust for America's Health. Wisconsin scored a perfect 10 out of 10 indicators of preparedness levels. Dr. Brokopp stated that WSLH made a major contribution to the preparedness report.

**Item 12. REVIEW APPOINTMENTS AND EXPIRATION DATES
REVIEW RECORDS FOR OATH OF OFFICE**

Dr. Brokopp announced the appointment of Dr. Seth Foldy to the WSLH board. He stated that there are currently two vacancies on the board. He thanked Mr. Robert Bagley for remaining on the board until the Governor makes an appointment for his seat. Dr. Brokopp said WSLH has been working with local health officers to find a replacement. Dr. Brokopp also mentioned that George Million has retired from the board making his position vacant.

Item 13. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Brokopp thanked Mr. David Taylor for his outstanding job as Chair of the WSLH Board of Directors.

A) The next board meeting is scheduled for April 21, 2009. Draft agenda items for the April meeting include a 2009 third quarter fiscal year report, submission of the preliminary 2010 budget to board, and a review of future board meeting dates.

B) Report of Outbreaks and Other Emergency Response Activities for November 1, 2008 – January 26, 2009:

- Three powder incidents, the most noteworthy involving a threatening letter sent to the Governor. All were negative.
- During November 6–25, 2008, a total of 47 persons (23 residents and 24 staff) at an 80-resident long-term care facility (LTCF) had abrupt onsets of febrile illnesses. Three (13%) of the 23 ill residents died. All other ill residents recovered without sequelae.
- On January 7, 2009, CDC announced a nationwide *Salmonella* typhimurium outbreak. Wisconsin had three of the nearly 500 cases reported as of 1/26/09.
- Aurora Consolidated Laboratories (ACL) joined Dean, Milwaukee Health Department laboratories and the WSLH in providing live Electronic Laboratory Reporting (ELR) data to the Wisconsin Electronic Disease Surveillance System (WEDSS).
- WSLH received a sample that was collected from a spill of an unknown chemical that occurred at a Super Wal-Mart in Germantown. WSLH tested the sample. A decision was made by the FBI to open a field investigation related to this situation. As a result, further testing will be done by the FBI laboratory.

C) **Report on Public Water System Testing:** For the period October 1, 2008 – December 31, 2008 there were 102 boil water notices issued, 3,851 systems were tested.

D) Awards, Honors, and Accomplishments:

- **Christine Powell** was invited to be part of a panel of microbiologists and chemists to audit the American Industrial Hygiene Association Laboratory Quality Association Program.
- **Dr. Daniel Kurtycz** attended the American Society of Cytopathology 56th Annual Scientific meeting and participated in a Cytology Workshop: Introduction to Cytogenetics and Molecular Cytogenetics and a panel discussion: 2010: A Cytology Odyssey.
- **Dr. Gordana Raca** attended the American Society of Cytopathology 56th Annual Scientific meeting and participated in a Cytology Workshop: Introduction to Cytogenetics and Molecular Cytogenetics.
- **Dr. Jennifer Laffin** received notification in November that the Institutional Review Board (IRB) approved her protocol submission for a DNA Research Bank.
- **Dr. Mei Baker** attended the Newborn Screening Molecular Training Workshop. She made a Presentation titled “Developing a Molecular Testing Assay in Newborn Screening Program”.
- **John Shalkham** participated as a facilitator for the 2008 Africa Calls Teleconference: Validation in the Cytopathology Laboratory sponsored by the Annenberg Center for Health Sciences.
- **Michele Smith** was appointed to be on the Coordinating Council on the Clinical Laboratory Workforce Committee representing ASCT and selected to be Chair of the Education Committee for ASCT.

E) Staff Publications and Presentations

- **Timothy Monson, Steven Marshall, Dr. David Warshauer, Nicole Broekema, and Dr. Tam Van** were co-authors of an article titled “Comparison of Cefoxitin and Oxacillin Disk Diffusion Methods for Detection of medA-Mediated Resistance in *Staphylococcus aureus* in a Large-Scale Study.” The article appeared in the Journal of Clinical Microbiology.
- **Dr. Ronald Schell** co-authored a paper titled “Bacterin That Induces OspA and OspC Borreliacidal Antibodies, Provides a High Level of Protection against Canine Lyme Disease”. The paper was presented in part at the 25th American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine Forum.
- **Dr. George Gruetzmacher** is listed as co-author of a paper titled “Characterization of Exposures to Airborne Nanoscale Particles During Friction Stir Welding of Aluminum” submitted to the Journal of Aerosol Science and Technology.

- **Leroy Dobson** was acknowledged for his participation in a study titled "Effect of Acute Chloramine Exposure on Pulmonary Function Test and Maximal Oxygen Uptake", sponsored by the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire Kinesiology Department.

F) Biochemical Genetics Laboratory

The biochemical genetics laboratory will move from the Waisman Center to Henry Mall and has a April 1, 2009 transfer date. WSLH is presently working on obtaining CAP accreditation for the additional testing. Dr. Mei Baker and Dr. Greg Rice will be the directors of the laboratory.

G) Level One Chemical Laboratory Exercise

Mr. Dave Degenhardt reported on WSLH's participation as a Level 1 clinical terrorism laboratory in a functional exercise to test our response and testing capabilities. Each of the laboratories received 500 urine samples and was asked to test the samples for ricinine, which is a marker for an exposure to ricin. The laboratories were all asked to provide "24/7" testing until the completion of the exercise. WSLH was staffed for three nine-hour shifts with approximately two people per shift until the exercise was completed. The staff tested and reported data for the 500 samples within 4 ½ days. All 10 of the Level 1 laboratories completed the exercise within five days, which was the expectation of CDC. The precision and accuracy data from each of the laboratories met the acceptable quality control requirements set by CDC.

H) AWARE Coalition

Jan Klawitter reported that the All Wisconsin Alcohol Risk Education (AWARE) Coalition is a statewide group whose mission is to increase public awareness of alcohol abuse. The coalition currently has 37 members from health care, public health, hospitals, and law enforcement groups that work together to support stronger legislation to combat drunk driving.

Item 14. ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2009

Mr. David Taylor reported that the public sector members of the board met and Dr. Bernard Poeschel agreed to serve as Vice Chair of the board during the coming year. Mr. Jack Sullivan moved **the nomination, in accord with Article 5, Policies and Procedures of the WSLH Board, of the following for officers of the WSLH Board: Mr. Darrell Bazzell for the position of Chair; Dr. Bernard Poeschel for the position of Vice-Chair/Chair Elect; and Dr. Charles Brokopp for the position of Secretary for the term beginning at the close of the February 2009 meeting; and moved the rules be suspended, the nominations be closed and the Secretary be instructed to cast a unanimous ballot for the nominees.** Seconded by Mr. Mike Russell. Passed on a voice vote (030108)

Motion: Move to Adjourn at 4:30 p.m.

Motion by: Mr. Jack Sullivan. Seconded by Mr. Robert Bagley

Motion passed on a voice vote. (018:0808)

Respectfully submitted by:



Charles D. Brokopp, Dr. PH
Secretary