OBA News

News from the NIH Office of Biotechnology Activities
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NIH Recombinant DNA Advisory Committee to Meet March 3-4, 2009 - The preliminary agenda for the March 3-4 meeting of the NIH Recombinant DNA Advisory Committee (RAC) is now available on the OBA Web site.

On March 3, the RAC will review and discuss several human gene transfer protocols, including one proposing to use a herpes simplex virus containing the gene for glutamate decarboxylase in patients with painful diabetic neuropathy. Also on the agenda is a discussion of two studies of gene transfer for X-Linked Severe Combined Immunodeficiency (X-SCID) utilizing a self inactivating lentiviral vector to transduce autologous CD34+ hematopoietic cells. The first protocol will enroll newly diagnosed patients between the ages of 3 and 12 months and the second study will enroll children greater than one year of age.

The RAC will also consider appropriate biosafety practices and containment measures for certain research with the complementary DNA of Ebola virus.

On March 4, the RAC Biosafety Working Group will present its recommendations for changes to the *NIH Guidelines for Research Involving Recombinant DNA Molecules* to address recombinant research with potentially pandemic strains of influenza, including human H2N2, reconstructed 1918 H1N1, and highly pathogenic influenza H5N1 viruses.

Also, the RAC will discuss a first-in-human trial of intraperitoneal administration of a plasmid vector containing a gene for diphtheria toxin A chain in subjects with advanced stage ovarian cancer.

For the full RAC meeting agenda, please connect to:
http://oba.od.nih.gov/oba/RAC/meetings/mar2009/RAC%20Draft%20agenda.pdf

The meeting will be held in the Neuroscience Building, 6001 Executive Boulevard, Rockville, Maryland 20852 **(Please note that this location is not on the NIH campus.)** All portions of the meeting are open to the public and will be webcast. Please visit the meetings page of the OBA Web site to access the link to the webcast and to obtain a copy of the preliminary agenda.

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