

# OBA News

## News from the NIH Office of Biotechnology Activities

November 15, 2008

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**RAC and ISATTAC to hold a Safety Symposium on “The Public Health and Biosafety Practices for Research with 1918 H1N1 Influenza Virus”** - On December 2, the RAC and the CDC/USDA Intragovernmental Select Agent and Toxin Technical Advisory Committee will be co-sponsoring a symposium on “The Public Health and Biosafety Practices for Research with 1918 H1N1 Influenza Virus.” This symposium will bring together experts to provide their perspectives on the safety, efficacy, and advisability of pre-exposure antiviral prophylaxis for researchers working with reconstructed pandemic 1918 influenza virus, with a particular focus on how the presence or absence of pre-exposure prophylaxis should be factored into a determination of the appropriate biocontainment level for work with the virus. Please check the meeting [agenda](#) for more information.

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**Preliminary Agenda for the December 3-4 RAC Meeting Now Available.** The preliminary [agenda](#) for the December 3-4 meeting of the NIH Recombinant DNA Advisory Committee (RAC) is now available on the [OBA Web site](#).

On December 3 the RAC will review and discuss selected human gene transfer protocols, including a Phase I trial of intratumoral injection of Vesicular Stomatitis Virus expressing interferon beta in subjects with hepatocellular carcinoma. Also on the RAC agenda is the review and discussion of two Phase I trials of the immunostimulant JVRS-100. One trial is for subjects with chronic hepatitis C infection who have relapsed after interferon-ribavirin treatment and the other trial is for individuals with relapsed or refractory leukemia. In addition, the RAC will review and discuss a Phase I trial of modified *Lactococcus lactis* expressing human trefoil factor 1 for individuals with oral mucositis in individuals undergoing treatment for head and neck cancer.

On December 4 there will be an update presented on allogeneic bone marrow cross-transplantation for X-SCID. Also the RAC will review and discuss a human gene transfer protocol for SCID-X1 using a self inactivating gammaretroviral vector.

For the full RAC meeting agenda please check <http://oba.od.nih.gov/oba/RAC/meetings/dec2008/DraftAgendaDec2008.pdf> for more information.

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All of the above meetings will be held in the Terrace Level Conference Room [5635 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20852](#). **(Please note that this location is not on the NIH campus.)** All portions of these meetings 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.

For more information, please contact Laurie Lewallen, NIH Office of Biotechnology Activities, by email at [lewalla@od.nih.gov](mailto:lewalla@od.nih.gov) or by telephone at 301-496-9838.