

**External Laboratory Safety Workgroup (ELSW)  
Meeting Summary  
Monday, August 3, 2015  
8:00 A.M. – 9:00 A.M.**

Attendance	
Joseph Kanabrocki, PhD, CBSP – <i>Co-Chair</i>	✓
Kenneth Berns, MD, PhD – <i>Co-Chair</i>	✓
Debra L. Hunt, DrPH, CBSP	✓
Thomas V. Inglesby, MD	
Patricia Olinger, RBP	✓
Michael Pentella, PhD, D(ABMM)	✓
David Relman, MD, PhD	
Heather J. Sheeley, BA, MS, CBiol, MSB, CMIOSH, FISTR	✓
Fred Sparling, MD	✓
Jill Taylor, PhD	✓
Domenica (Dee) Zimmerman	
Sarah Wiley, MPH, <i>Designated Federal Officer (DFO)</i>	✓
Steve Monroe, PhD, <i>Acting Director for Laboratory Science and Safety, OADLSS (proposed)</i>	✓
✓ In attendance	

**Meeting Summary**

**Roll Call and Call to Order**

*Sarah Wiley, Designated Federal Officer (DFO) and ELSW Members*

**ACD Meeting and FDA Report**

*Joseph Kanabrocki, PhD, ELSW Co-Chair*

Dr. Kanabrocki stated that the ACD meeting went well. The ACD did not have any concerns about proposed recommendations for FDA and voted unanimously to approve them.

**Discussion Points**

*ELSW Members, Sarah Wiley*

ELSW members discussed three primary items related to the ACD meeting regarding FDA:

- Dr. Frieden’s question related to findings and their applicability to CDC shows a continued interest in lab safety at CDC.
- Centralization is the major challenge at FDA, similar to CDC.
- The FDA report will be transmitted to the HHS Secretary after the ACD chair reviews and signs the report.

**CDC Updates**

*Dr. Monroe, Sarah Wiley, ELSW Members*

Dr. Monroe provided an update on OADLSS (proposed) activities that were underway while he was deployed to Liberia as a part of the Ebola response. Several federal and state laboratories were visited by CDC staff to conduct benchmarking for ISO accreditation. Members of CDC laboratories involved in the external accreditation pilot participated in these visits. The tablet implementation pilot was also moving forward in BSL-3 and BSL-4 laboratories. The lab staff survey was in the process of being distributed, with a strict timeline that will allow the ELSW to view survey results before the October visit. The NIH, FDA, and CDC will also begin meeting to discuss possible areas of collaboration related to laboratory safety. The meetings will begin August 4.

There was a hearing with the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations related to the DoD anthrax incident and Select Agent Program. There were witnesses from CDC, DoD, HHS, and GAO at the hearing. The hearing focused on both the anthrax incident and general

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laboratory safety issues. The GAO is also working on a review to assess biosafety and biosecurity protocols and practices within governmental agencies. There is also a new GAO study beginning on high-containment laboratories, with a focus on inactivation and attenuation protocols.

**Discussion Points**

*Dr. Monroe, Sarah Wiley, ELSW Members*

The group responded to and discussed a number of issues related to CDC and the proposed OADLSS.

- There were no updates related to hiring a permanent ADLSS.
- Dr. Monroe discussed the active Ebola cases he responded to in Liberia and possible sources of exposure.
- Ms. Wiley clarified the link between the DoD anthrax incident and CDC safety issues, stating that it is a greater question of inactivation and select agents. CDC oversees, houses, and manages the select agent program nation-wide. This raises some regulatory issues between DoD and CDC given the issues CDC has had with its own laboratories.
- The OADLSS website is being updated regularly with news from CDC laboratories and the interim office. It includes the report from ACD and offers updates around what CDC is doing to address ACD's recommendations. ELSW stated that this is a good opportunity to counter the media perspective of CDC laboratory safety.
- The group discussed the GAO reviews and the possibility for ELSW to talk with the GAO review groups. Ms. Wiley will let GAO know of ELSW's interest in meeting with them.
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**Preliminary Plans for October 5-6 CDC Visit**

*Sarah Wiley, ELSW Members*

Dr. Kanabrocki requested that ELSW members review the 2014 CDC visit agenda as a guiding point for the October visit. The group presented the following points of interest during their October visit:

- Repeating staff engagement sessions
- Meeting with Dr. Frieden
- Meeting with different review boards (LSRB, IBC, IBB)
- An overview of risk assessment
- Survey results presentation
- Meeting with the CDC communications team (OADC)
- An update from OADLSS and its Associate Director

**Administrative Matters and Adjournment**

*Sarah Wiley, ELSW Members*

- CDC will reach out to ELSW members to make travel arrangements for the October visit.
- The next ELSW meeting on August 18 will not be convened because both co-chairs cannot attend. Ms. Wiley will send a poll to determine an alternate date.