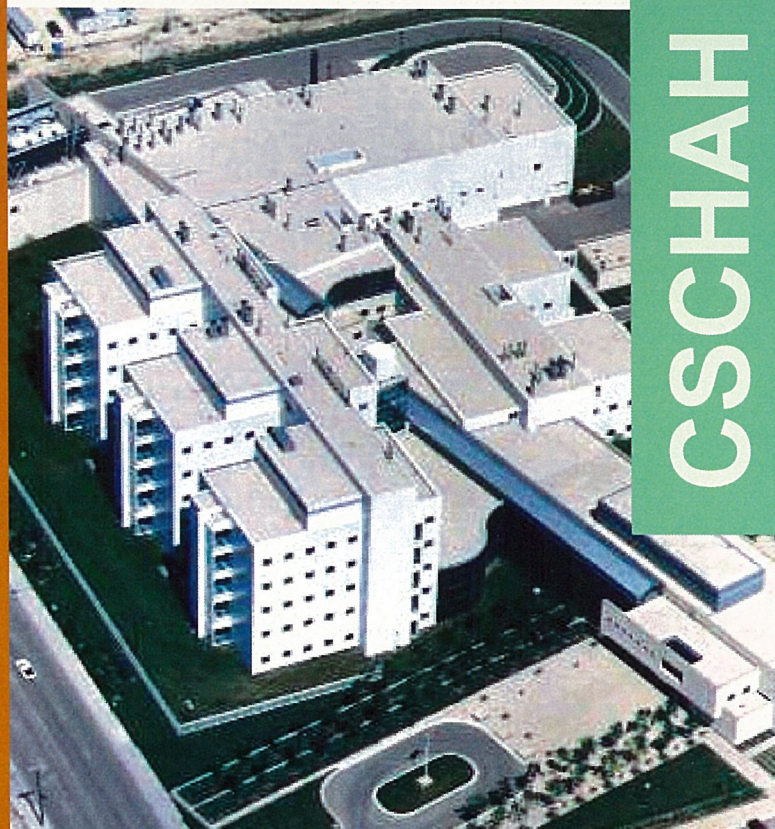


ANNUAL REPORT

April 2004

April 2005



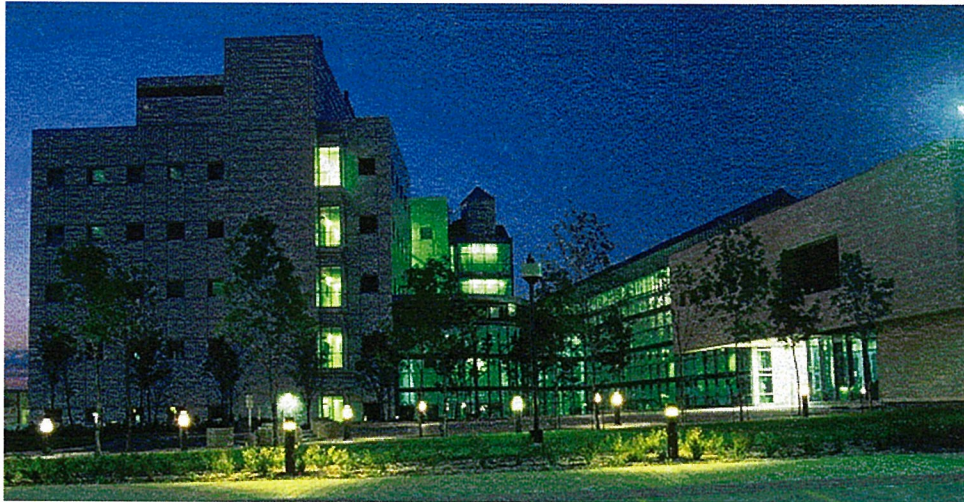
CSCHAH

The Community Liaison Committee

to the CANADIAN SCIENCE CENTRE FOR
HUMAN AND ANIMAL HEALTH (CSCHAH)

Community Liaison Committee to the
Canadian Science Centre for Human and Animal Health
PO Box 2354
Winnipeg MB R3C 4A6
(204) 947-3364

Community Liaison Committee Annual Report for the Years Ending March 2004 and March 2005



Message from the CSCHAH CLC Co-Chair Dr. Stefan Wagener

The past two years have been very eventful and exciting for the Canadian Science Centre for Human and Animal Health. During this time, we have been involved in a number of significant outbreaks of infectious disease, along with exciting new initiatives and important research breakthroughs, all of which have resulted in considerable program growth. Through it all, it has been our pleasure to work with the Community Liaison Committee and its committed members to keep our community apprised of developments.

While small outbreaks of infectious diseases are not unusual, a number of recent occurrences have required tremendous responses from our labs, far above and beyond their usual operations. In particular, the SARS outbreak that began in the spring of 2003 required an around-the-clock response, as did the outbreak of Avian Influenza in BC in 2004 and the investigation into Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) the year prior. These outbreaks have tested our surge capacity and taught us lessons we can apply in the future. They have also brought recognition to the facility as a world-class institution. The Committee is updated on these events at regular meetings.

As a world-class facility with many internationally recognized experts, the Centre plays a significant part in the world infectious disease scene. Our experts are often called on to provide advice to others around the world as well as to respond to outbreaks in countries requiring assistance. The Centre also has many

international and high profile visitors that come to Winnipeg to meet with experts and view the lab's renowned design and containment features. On occasion, the Community Liaison Committee has been invited to participate in these visits, as people building labs in other countries often want to hear about the successful community partnership that has been forged here.

All of these activities have led to necessary growth in the programs along with changes in how we deliver those programs. In the future, we anticipate more change at the Centre. The renewed focus on public health in Canada and the subsequent creation of the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) in September of 2004 has already had an impact on the facility particularly with the designation of Winnipeg as one of two headquarter locations. The Chief Public Health Officer, head of the Agency, calls Winnipeg home and maintains an office in the Canadian Science Centre as well as one in Ottawa. Plans currently being considered for the development of the Winnipeg headquarters include the possibility of adding additional office space to the building. As information on these developments becomes available, we will be sharing it with the Committee.

There is a great deal of impetus to build on the success of the lab in Winnipeg to further develop the successful infectious disease and public health industry that exists here. The International Centre for Infectious Disease is a new organization that is based in Winnipeg and is drawing together research and educational resources from government, academia and the private sector, to build our collective capacity to deal with persistent and emerging infectious diseases. Consecutive and intertwined with this, the BioMed City initiative is getting off the ground with the objective of converting Winnipeg's enormous research strength into innovation by creating new firms and jobs, nurturing entrepreneurs and attracting investment. The Community Liaison Committee has expressed some interest in these ongoing developments and has been exploring whether there should be a role for them to play as the initiatives progress.

The creation of the Public Health Agency of Canada has resulted in some internal restructuring at the Centre, the results of which include a new Centre co-chair for the Committee. While I am sad to be leaving the committee, I am excited to be focusing on the development of a dynamic biorisk management research and training program. I am proud of the work we have done together over the last few years and I am certain that it will continue with the new co-chair, Dr. Frank Plummer.

The Canadian Science Centre for Human and Animal Health looks forward to continuing its strong relationship with the Community Liaison Committee and by extension, with the community at large. We remain committed to transparency and actively engaging the Committee and the community.

**Message from the Community CLC Co-Chair
Karen Keppler**

The members of the Community Liaison Committee for the Canadian Science Centre for Human and Animal Health have a unique responsibility to the neighbourhood surrounding the Science Centre, to Winnipeg and to Manitoba. As a Committee, we must feel comfortable at all times that the staff at the Science Centre and the community surrounding the Centre are safe. In order to achieve that kind of comfort it was imperative that the scientific leaders at the Science Centre share their environment and their knowledge of security and biological safety with the Committee. We must see for ourselves that the Centre's policies and safety measures are effective. To be sure we are getting a true picture we must be able to ask questions of anyone at the Centre. Our Co-Chair from the Centre has arranged for many informative staff presentations regarding numerous and diverse activities at the Centre. It is this openness between the Committee and the Centre that has led to a comfortable relationship between the Centre and its neighbours.

Members of the Committee have come to understand a great deal about the challenges the world may face at anytime. In 2003, SARS and BSE were discovered in Canada, along with the first human cases of West Nile virus in the country. This was a terrifically busy time for the Science Centre, with scientists and laboratory staff working around the clock. Even during the outbreaks of 2003, the Centre kept the Committee fully informed. It was during 2003 that the global importance of the Science Centre became truly apparent. Without the Science Centre, we would not be prepared to do battle with ever-evolving viral infections such as influenza.

In 2004, we came to understand how the scientific community must communicate in order to halt the spread of emerging threats such as Avian Influenza. The opening of the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) was a highlight for the Committee. The EOC brings the capacity of instant and simultaneous communication between many points on the globe during an emergency response. The EOC is a nerve centre of telecommunication that gives scientists the communication tools they need to collaborate.

The Canadian Science Centre for Human and Animal Health brings together human and animal high-containment laboratories in one institution. The Committee has seen the value of this partnership, unique in the world. While a lot of attention has been focused on the Public Health Agency of Canada's National Microbiology Laboratory, as well as the growth of this Agency in Winnipeg, the Committee also recognizes the importance of the animal lab, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency's National Centre for Foreign Animal Disease, and its

tremendous contributions as well. Having expertise in both the human and animal specialties, as well as the ease of collaborating with co-located colleagues, is a significant benefit to Canadians. It may be that the greatest health concern that the world is yet to witness will take the form of a viral infection that has made the transition from animals to humans; Avian Influenza is only one example of this threat.



The Community Liaison Committee has been pleased to participate with the Science Centre when special guests have visited the Laboratory. The Committee has had the pleasure to meet Prime Minister Chrétien, Health Ministers, Mayors, world-renowned writers and scientists. Groups from around the world who plan to build a scientific institution similar to the Science Centre in their own communities have contacted the Committee. The Committee has been pleased to share with others the experience we have enjoyed in bringing the Science Centre and the community together and seeing a long-term partnership develop. We have told our story to groups from Saskatoon, California, Boston, Victoria (Australia) and many others. The Committee has been called a “Model” for other community liaison groups under development. What other communities see as a model, we see as simply the way the people of Winnipeg and Manitoba work together.



Scientists tend to be quite humble about their work. The Community Liaison Committee has witnessed the hard work and heroism that scientists have demonstrated, not only in the laboratories at the Science Centre, but in their willingness to travel to locations of developing and deadly outbreaks, anywhere in the world. As we stand witness to the work of these brave scientists, we come to realize how lucky we are to have the Canadian Science Centre for Human and Animal Health safely operating in Winnipeg.

Introduction to the Canadian Science Centre for Human and Animal Health

The Canadian Science Centre for Human and Animal Health, located at 1015 Arlington Street in Winnipeg, was opened in 1997. Considered a world-class facility, this state-of-the-art laboratory complex is the first facility in the world designed to accommodate high containment laboratories for both human and animal research. The Science Centre is operated by the Public Health Agency of Canada and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, and houses the National Centre for Foreign Animal Disease and the National Microbiology Laboratory. The facility includes Biocontainment Level 2, 3 and 4 laboratories. The Level 4 laboratories are the first of their kind in Canada, which provide an opportunity to work on developing solutions to some of the world's most serious diseases.

Introduction to the Community Liaison Committee

The Community Liaison Committee was established in response to public concerns regarding the safety and containment procedures of the facility, and to create a basis for and to maintain an atmosphere of public trust and confidence between the Centre and the community.

Upon formation of the Community Liaison Committee by the Minister of Agriculture & Agri-Food and the Minister of Health, the Ministers outlined in the announcement that the Committee would be instrumental to:

- Ensure full and open communication with the community in Winnipeg related to the Canadian Science Centre for Human and Animal Health;
- Help promote better public understanding of the Centre and provide a forum for public input; and
- Be an important vehicle for two-way sharing of information between the Centre and the Community.

The Community Liaison Committee held its first meeting January 12, 2000 and continues to meet on a regular basis.

The Committee seeks out and provides accurate information to the community in order to foster a greater understanding of the activities of the Science Centre. The committee also monitors safety issues for the community and for the staff of the Centre.

The Committee consists of volunteer members representing a wide range of community groups including community members, scientists, health care professionals, agricultural professionals, and educators.

Committee Activities April 2003 to March 2005

The Committee met every second month from April 2003 to March 2005. The meetings were structured for information sharing and for discussion of issues brought forward by the public or by the Committee.

To maintain the committee's comfort and knowledge level with the operation of the Centre, presentations from laboratory personnel and others were received on the following topics:

- SAF-T-Pak Infectious Substance Shipper;
- Shipping and Receiving procedures and policies;
- Emergency Operations Centre features and capacities;
- International Centre for Infectious Diseases strategies and plans;
- Reports from the Incident Communication System;
- University of Saskatchewan's International Vaccine Centre;
- Reports from safety and administrative audits;
- Reports on BSE, Avian Influenza, SARS and West Nile Virus;
- Presentation on Media Relations for the Centre;
- Discussions on commercialization of scientific discovery;
- Methods and future options for training veterinarians;
- Non-human primates in relation to SARS;
- Treatment and care taken with animals in the laboratory;
- Lessons learned during the SARS outbreak.

In addition to the specific presentations, each meeting had a Bulletin Board session where new developments and information was shared and discussed.

The Incident Communication System

Implemented in January 2003, the Incident Communication System has proven to be an effective system of communication, both internally and externally, relating

to incidents that occur at the lab. The Community Liaison Committee has access to every incident report through a binder that is available for Committee members to view during meetings, or at any time a Committee member is at the Science Centre. When an incident occurs, the Incident Communication System is utilized, with its objective and subjective criteria, to determine who should be notified including whether the Community Liaison Committee requires immediate notification. Having access to all incident reports ensures the Committee is in agreement with which incidents require immediate notification and which do not. It has been the experience of the Committee that we have been well informed in a timely manner since the installation of the Incident Communication System.

Public Meetings

The Community Liaison Committee has made several public presentations to groups who were interested in hearing about the activities and the purpose of the Committee. The Community Co-Chair has delivered keynote speeches at luncheons and dinners held by community-minded groups.

The Community Liaison Committee called a public meeting for Friday, March 11, 2005 at 7:00 PM at the Burton Cummings Community Centre at 960 Arlington. The public was invited to come and voice any concerns they had about the Canadian Science Centre for Human and Animal Health. The Committee carried the concerns to the Science Centre and obtained written responses. These responses are attached to this report as Appendix B and are published on the Committee's web site: www.communityliaisoncommittee.ca. The Committee hopes to hold this type of meeting annually in the future.

Communication with the Community

The Community Liaison Committee maintains a voicemail line for members of the community to use in order to contact the Committee. The Committee also maintains a post office box for mail and a website with email access to the Co-Chair. The Committee is open and receptive to community member communication. Any concerns or questions that cannot be answered immediately will be taken to the Science Centre for discussion and resolution. Information will then be returned to the community member who brought the enquiry forward.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

The Centre was criticised for not immediately informing the community of an incident in June of 1999. What have you done to make sure this won't happen again?

The Committee is notified quickly of incidents that occur and of the actions taken in response. An Incident Communication System provides a subjective framework to determine how extensively notification should be distributed. Beyond this, the Committee has access to all information pertaining to incidents, such as Occupational Safety and Health reports.

Is my neighbourhood safe now that the CSCHAH has level 4 agents?

Safety is foremost in the minds of everyone associated with the Centre. The facility meets or exceeds all national and international standards for biocontainment and undergoes required re-certifications on an annual basis. High-containment laboratory areas contain airtight rooms with interlocking bio-seal doors. Air-locks for entry and exit maintain negative air pressures to direct air inward, ensuring the only air leaving the laboratory is through High Efficiency Particulate Air filtration systems. Everything leaving the high-containment laboratories is appropriately treated.

Why are these foreign dangerous agents being brought to Canada?

Many new infectious diseases have emerged in recent years making new diseases an ongoing concern. With increasing international travel, any disease can be transported around the world in a matter of hours. It is vital for the well-being and safety of Canadians that we have the diagnostic capability in Canada to quickly identify new and existing infections.

How are dangerous viruses transported?

The Centre employs all internationally accepted packaging methods. Infectious agents are shipped between hospitals and laboratories in accordance with Transport Canada's very stringent Transportation of Dangerous Goods regulations.

The Transport of Dangerous Goods requires that shipment of specific materials utilize a triple packaging system that includes a special container that has undergone rigorous testing and is known to have survived actual plane crashes.

Shipments of level 4 agents require extensive planning. An Emergency Response Assistance Plan must be approved by Transport Canada before any level 4 shipments can occur. The Centre works closely with local officials, the RCMP

and CSIS to evaluate and mitigate all security risks related to the operation of the facility.

Is the research carried on at the CSCHAH of value to me?

Many of the human diseases diagnosed and researched at the facility are an ongoing concern in our community. As we have seen, infectious diseases can be quickly transported around the globe and take hold of a community almost anywhere. The work done in the animal lab not only helps to protect the health of our livestock and economy, but also reduces the risks presented by diseases which can be transmitted from animals to people.

How much influence or control does the Committee have in respect to the operations of the Centre and its programs?

The Committee has no direct control over the operations or programs of the Centre but acts as an information conduit between the community and the Centre. The CLC can question and examine materials pertaining to any aspect of the facility, including the Occupational Safety and Health Committee; the Animal Care Committee; emergency response plans; and the on-going testing of various building systems and equipment. As well, the Committee provides information on issues of public concern, monitors safety for the community and the staff of the Centre and keeps the officials at the Centre apprised of community concerns and possible opportunities for the enhanced performance of the Centre.

If we want to talk to someone at the Lab, whom should we contact?

If you would like to reach someone at the Canadian Science Centre for Human and Animal Health directly, you can do so by contacting:

Communications
Canadian Science Centre for Human and Animal Health
1015 Arlington Street
Winnipeg MB R3E 3P6
Phone: (204) 789-2000

Members of the Community Liaison Committee as of March 31, 2005

Karen Keppler, Co-Chair

Managing Partner at Cathedral Group and
Executive Director of Smart Partners of
Manitoba



Dr. Stefan Wagener, Co-Chair

Scientific Director, Biosafety and
Environment and Chief Administrative
Officer; Canadian Science Centre for
Human and Animal Health



Bob Douglas, Past Committee Co-Chair

Former Winnipeg City Councillor



Audrey Vandewater

Community Representative



Alex Forrest

President,
United Fire Fighters of Winnipeg



Dr. Terry Whiting

Manitoba Veterinary Medical Association
and Manitoba Agriculture & Food,
Veterinary Services Branch



Dr. Jagdish C. Khatter
Health Care Sector



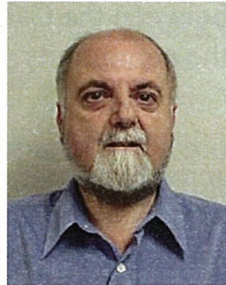
Franeli Yadao
Cangene Corporation



Weldon Newton
Keystone Agricultural Producers



Adrian Jackson
Manitoba Conservation



Harold Foster
Association of Manitoba Municipalities
Director for the Interlake District
Picture not available

Administrative and Communication support is supplied to the Community Liaison Committee by the Canadian Science Centre for Human and Animal Health.

Conclusion

The fourth and fifth year of operation of the Community Liaison Committee has been very successful. The Committee is confident of a good rapport and excellent information sharing between the Centre and the Community. As the Community Liaison Committee moves into its sixth year, we look forward to the exciting opportunities for Winnipeg and Manitoba in relation to the further development of the Centre and the possibility of the development of an industry cluster around the Canadian Science Centre.

Appendix A

Terms of Reference Community Liaison Committee to the Canadian Science Centre for Human and Animal Health

Background:

On August 10, 1999, the former Ministers of Health and Agriculture and Agri-Food announced the intention to create a permanent Community Liaison Committee (CLC) to help ensure full and open communication with the community in Winnipeg relative to the Canadian Science Centre for Human and Animal Health (CSCHAH).

Purpose:

To create a basis for and maintain an atmosphere of public trust and confidence between the Canadian Science Centre for Human and Animal Health and the community.

Mandate:

The Community Liaison Committee is established to provide an ongoing opportunity for discussion and sharing of information between the Canadian public and the Canadian Science Centre for Human and Animal Health (CSCHAH).

Objectives:

The objectives of the Community Liaison Committee (CLC) are:

- < to seek information and share mutual understanding on issues of public concern;
- < to provide an ongoing forum for public input and a sustained information exchange;
- < to provide guidance to the Chief Administrative Officer at CSCHAH on possible opportunities for the enhanced performance of the CSCHAH;
- < to serve as a vehicle proactively to seek and provide accurate information to the community in order to foster a greater understanding of the activities of the Canadian Science Centre for Human and Animal Health;
- < to monitor safety for the community and for the employees of the CSCHAH.

Roles and Responsibilities of Members:

The CLC will be responsible for seeking information on activities related to real or perceived community concerns; reviewing all activities, incidents and programs and providing feedback on appropriate actions to address concerns.

The CLC is responsible for providing accurate information to the public through an open and transparent process.

Reporting:

The authority of the CLC is to direct concerns via the Director/CAO, to the Laboratory Executive Committee for the appropriate action and to be advised of the status of this action. Should the response prove to be insufficient the CLC, via the two co-chairpersons, will convey its opinion to the Chief Public Health Officer, Public Health Agency of Canada and the President, Canadian Food Inspection Agency. If, in the opinion of the CLC there are overriding public concerns, the CLC may directly communicate with the respective Ministers and/or the public at large.

The direct accountability of the CLC is to the Laboratory Executive Committee of the CSCHAH to support the optimal performance of the Centre. However, the overall accountability is to the public community of Winnipeg, of Manitoba, and of Canada. At the conclusion of each year the CLC is responsible to produce and publicly distribute an annual report of committee activities.

Committee Membership and Structure:

The CLC will comprise a balanced representation consisting of at least 8 and no more than 12 participants from each of the following stakeholder groups:

- < the provincial government;
- < the city of Winnipeg;
- < the agricultural community;
- < the medical community;
- < the academic community;
- < the veterinary medical community;
- < from the community at large;
- < and the Director/CAO from the CSCHAH who will act as co-chair.

Terms of Appointment:

The term of each participant is to be three years with one third of the membership to be replaced or re-appointed every year starting with the third year of operation, with the exception of the Chief Administrative Officer, CSCHAH. The CLC will invite nominations from the community for new members and after review of

nominations will recommend the nomination of members to the Ministers. The committee will have two co-chairpersons: one from the community and the other being the Chief Administrative Officer, CSCHAH. The term for the community co-chairperson will be two years with an option for re-election.

Operations:

The frequency of meetings will be quarterly as a minimum or more frequently as determined by the Chairpersons.

Meeting quorum will comprise at least 4 participants from the community and any vote will be determined on the basis of a simple majority.

Secretarial, administrative and communication support services to the Committee will be provided by the Canadian Science Centre for Human and Animal Health at no cost to the CLC.

Scope:

The Committee will supplement the Canadian Science Centre for Human and Animal Health ongoing communications and interaction with the community, stakeholders, media and regulatory agencies.

The Committee will provide guidance on appropriate and effective ways of communicating with the community. This information will be provided to the Centre's Executive Committee, to stakeholder organizations and to the public, through an open and transparent process.

The process and operation of this Committee is considered public information and will be communicated openly.

Compensation:

Members are volunteers and do not receive any remuneration.

Security and conduct:

Community representatives on the CLC are not required to obtain a security clearance.

Appendix B

Public Meeting Questions Answered March 11, 2005

Background

On March 11, 2005, the Community Liaison Committee (CLC) to the Canadian Science Centre for Human and Animal Health (CSCHAH) convened a community meeting at the Burton Cummings Community Centre on Arlington Street. While the meeting was called following a motor vehicle accident involving a courier carrying materials to CSCHAH, the purpose was to solicit any questions and concerns that community residents may have regarding the laboratory. The meeting was advertised through a press release as well as a flyer to 1100 homes in the immediate vicinity of CSCHAH. At the meeting, the CLC answered questions regarding their committee; however, questions regarding the facility were gathered and, on behalf of the community, were presented to CSCHAH at the next meeting of the CLC. This report contains the Canadian Science Centre for Human and Animal Health's responses to those questions.

The Community Liaison Committee hopes to convene this type of meeting on an annual basis in order to encourage ongoing communication between CSCHAH and local residents.

The Community Liaison Committee was initially established in response to public concerns regarding the safety and containment procedures of the facility. The Community Liaison Committee held its first meeting January 12, 2000 and continues to meet on a regular basis. The Committee seeks out and provides accurate information to the community in order to foster a greater understanding of the activities of the CSCHAH. The committee also monitors safety issues for the community and for the staff of CSCHAH. More information on the Committee can be found at: www.communityliaisoncommittee.ca.

Q1. Will there be any expansion to the building? Will homes be taken away?

A1. There are plans currently being considered to increase the size of the facility to accommodate more office space, and potentially more laboratory space, due to growth at the lab as well as the selection of Winnipeg as one of the two headquarter locations for the new Public Health Agency of Canada. No final decisions have yet been made in this regard. If this expansion takes place, it will be adjacent to the facility and within existing property boundaries.

It should also be noted that there is a strong interest in various sectors of our community to build on existing successes in the life sciences industry in Manitoba. One way to achieve this is by encouraging the further development of available lands in the area surrounding CSCHAH and the University of Manitoba's downtown campus. A November 2003 report by the International Centre for Infectious Diseases Taskforce explored opportunities in this regard. The Taskforce recommended the establishment of a special development zone called BioMed City. A hard copy of the report can be obtained by contacting Communications at the Canadian Science Centre (204-789-2000). An electronic version can be found on the Internet at: http://www.icid.ca/ICID/documents/fighting_disease.pdf

While no concrete plans have been made in this regard as of yet, all interested parties are committed to ensuring that any development will take the best interest and input of the community to heart.

Q2. Is there a plan in place for the community in case something catastrophic does happen? Is there a plan of evacuation for the elderly, our children, our schools and everything?

A2. As a large research complex, the Canadian Science Centre poses the same type of risk to the community that similar facilities, such as the Health Sciences Centre, do.

As explained by Mr. Alex Forrest at the community meeting, the City of Winnipeg Fire and Paramedic Service has responsibility for any evacuations in Winnipeg and they are well prepared to be able to manage such an evacuation if a fire, flood, or other disaster warranted it.

The lab works very closely with local authorities on planning for every contingency. Regular orientations are held for City of Winnipeg Fire and Paramedic Service personnel, as well as the Police Service, to ensure they are familiar with the facility and its operations. Joint exercises have been undertaken to ensure smooth, coordinated operations in the event of an emergency.

CSCHAH only works with small quantities of biological agents. Any release within the facility would not warrant an evacuation of the neighborhood. Emergency procedures are in place to safely contain and clean up any spill. Our engineering systems are designed to prevent any release to the environment. The facility was built to meet or exceed both Canadian biosafety guidelines and international standards; continual maintenance and upgrading ensures these standards are maintained. Everything leaving the high-containment areas (Containment Levels 3 & 4) is treated at least once and often twice. All air

leaving these areas is filtered through High Efficiency Particulate (HEPA) filters that remove particles 85 times smaller than viruses; in the high-containment areas, the air is filtered twice. These filters are tested regularly. All equipment, such as test tubes, vials and gloves, is treated in an autoclave¹ to sterilize it. All solid and liquid waste is treated in the Rendering and Biowaste System using machines much like large autoclaves; liquid waste is pre-treated in laboratory areas with disinfectants before it goes into this system. All people leaving high containment areas have to shower before exiting; in the case of Containment Level 4 areas, there is a chemical shower first to disinfect the outside of the biosafety suit that they wear inside the lab. Back-up electrical power, a multi-faceted controls program, extensive standard operating procedures, training, ongoing maintenance and regular mandatory re-certification ensures that these systems continue to function appropriately.

Q3. When you ship these containers, do you use delivery trucks that have all different packages together or do you have only one vehicle for that purpose?

A3. The Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act and regulations govern delivery of all infectious material. Transport Canada is the federal regulator responsible for safety requirements for the transportation of dangerous goods. In Winnipeg, Transport Canada may be contacted at (204) 983-3152. More information may also be found on-line at: www.tc.gc.ca.

There is not one single vehicle that is used solely for this purpose, nor is there one specific company. To have only one vehicle would be logistically impossible but would also make the deliveries more obvious. Infectious materials are transported between hospitals, doctors' offices and laboratories all the time. Materials that are potentially hazardous are routinely transported together with non-hazardous materials. Using a standard courier service that follows the rules set by the Transport of Dangerous Goods Act, including the rigorous training, to ship such packages is the surest and most effective way that these types of materials can be transferred. To date, no accident or incident involving infectious substances being transported has resulted in any human infection.

There are special packaging systems, based on a very durable container, designed for the safe transport of such materials, as was demonstrated at the community meeting. These, too, are regulated by Transport Canada and follow international guidelines.

Please see the response to Question 8 for more information on the anthrax shipments.

Q4. Why didn't the lab tell anyone immediately following the sewage accident in 1999?

A4. In June 1999, there was an unintentional release of non-infectious waste into the municipal sewer system. This was liquid waste from autoclaves¹, showers, lab sinks, and the like. It is treated in the laboratory areas before flowing into the Rendering and Biowaste System for secondary treatment. In this system, the materials are held under heat and pressure for a minimum 30 minutes. In this case, the secondary treatment was bypassed due to human error. A risk assessment was immediately done to determine if the situation was hazardous in any way. Officials at the City of Winnipeg and Province of Manitoba were notified immediately. The assessment showed that the waste had come from Level 3 areas (the Level 4 areas were not yet operational) and that all procedures had been followed to ensure that anything potentially infectious that had gone into the system had indeed been properly treated first. All officials agreed that this release did not pose any risk to the community. New standard operating procedures and further training were put in place to ensure that the incident would not be repeated.

From the very beginning, laboratory staff have been committed to transparent communication with the community. In this case, it was determined that there was no reason for concern regarding the incident and therefore it would be unlikely that the community would have any interest in it, which turned out not to be the case. From this experience, laboratory management realized the importance of sharing information, regardless of whether any actual risk exists, if it involves a critical area or system or if there is any chance that someone may perceive that safety has been compromised in anyway.

Following this incident, the Community Liaison Committee was established and an objective system, called the Incident Communication System, was developed to assist the laboratory to openly communicate with the community. The Community Liaison Committee has complete access to information concerning health and safety, and mechanical issues. They are regularly updated about occurrences at the lab.

Q5. In regards to the history of the building, why build it in the middle of the city, it's a great thing to have, it's important to have, to find out all the diseases and combat all the disease, but why in the middle of the city?

A5. The laboratory was built to be safe for the people working in it as well as for the surrounding community. There was no reason to build it in an isolated area.

Having the facility in a central location allows ease of access for staff and brings more people into the heart of the city.

Once it had been determined that the laboratory would be built in Winnipeg, a site selection committee of well respected, knowledgeable experts was struck to advise on the location that should be chosen within the city. One of the main reasons this particular site was selected was due to the proximity of the University of Manitoba medical school, the Health Sciences Centre and other life science organizations. This grouping allows more collaboration and will help this industry to grow in Winnipeg. It also allows scientists with cross appointments at the university, as well as the many students that work and train at the lab, to easily go back and forth.

Q6. How did you come to be on this committee, what was the selection process? How many people are on the committee?

A6. Nominations for the committee are solicited from a number of groups and organizations such as community associations, the three levels of government, the College of Physicians and Surgeons, the Association of Professional Engineers, Keystone Agricultural Producers, and universities. A wide range of representation is sought in the membership, including the nomination of specialists representing the fields of environment, public health, economic development and agriculture as well as the scientific/academic sectors. The Ministers of Health and Agriculture sign off on the nominations.

It is possible for people to self-nominate if they are interested in becoming members. Membership from the immediate area surrounding the facility is strongly encouraged. To self-nominate, contact the Committee at (204) 947-3364, via their web site www.communityliaisoncommittee.ca, or by writing to:

Community Liaison Committee
PO Box 2354
Winnipeg, MB R3C 4A6

Approximately 3 to 5 nominations are sought each year so that the longest serving members can be relieved while still ensuring continuity and ongoing corporate knowledge. Members are volunteers; there is no salary or honourarium provided. The Terms of Reference for the Committee can be obtained by calling Communications at the lab (204-789-2000) and are also available on the Committee's web site at:
<http://www.communityliaisoncommittee.ca/TermsOfReference.htm>

The Terms of Reference call for a committee of no less than 8 and no more than 12 members. This allows for a sufficient representation to gather and provide a wide range of perspectives, while keeping the group to a manageable size and allowing for quick and easy dissemination of information. Currently there are 9 members; the committee is part way through a selection process to bring in new members.

Q7. Is it true that there was a leak in 1999 where someone was hurt and they passed away because of it?

A7. No one was hurt or killed when some non-infectious waste was unintentionally released into the municipal sewer system in June of 1999. An immediate risk assessment of the incident determined that the situation was in no way hazardous. Please see the answer to Question 4 for more information on this incident.

There has never been an accident at the facility that caused serious disability or death. As with any workplace, there have been accidents where people have incurred minor injuries. The laboratory has an active Occupational Health and Safety committee that investigates all incidents, as well as dedicated biosafety and facility management professionals that are committed to ensuring a safe workplace. The facility routinely reports accidents to the Community Liaison Committee.

Q8. About the anthrax, it's a deadly agent, why was it in a Federal Express truck, when it should be transported by the Military? If it ever got lost and got into the wrong hands, what would happen?

A8. Anthrax is a naturally occurring bacterium that is occasionally found in the soil in this area of the country and has been known to cause the death of cattle here. It is also a human pathogen that can cause serious disease, which is why it is important for the laboratory to have this material and be able to develop tests that can very quickly recognize it in case of an infection somewhere in this country.

Anthrax material can only be sent between appropriately recognized and certified laboratories. To do this, it is necessary to obtain approval from both the Canadian Food Inspection Agency's Biohazard Containment and Safety Division and the Public Health Agency of Canada's Office of Laboratory Security. All conditions for transfer and transport of this material, as stated in the Human Pathogens Importation Regulations, were met for this shipment. In addition, an appropriate Material Transfer Agreement was signed which made the transfer subject to the

scrutiny of the Biological and Chemical Defence Review Committee. This type of shipment is not undertaken lightly.

It is rare for strains of anthrax to be shipped anywhere. When a decision is made to ship something like anthrax, one of the options is to use a courier service given that they are trained to handle this material; as well, couriers are inconspicuous given the large number of them on the streets everyday. Sending it in safe packaging in amongst other materials being transported is a safe and approved way of transport.

Please see also the response to Question 3 for more information on shipping.

Q9. Is any studying being done in case anyone wants to target this building from outside? Is that building safe for the neighbourhood?

A9. The Canadian Science Centre for Human and Animal Health is a high-security facility. Safety and security are the two most important elements of its ongoing operation. The Security Manager works closely with the RCMP, CSIS (Canadian Security Intelligence Service) and the local police to ensure that the level of security is appropriate at all times.

The Centre does not reveal very many details about the security systems that are in place so as not to compromise that security. We can share that there are security guards at the facility 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. They monitor the interior of the building as well as the property surrounding it at all times via surveillance cameras and make random patrols throughout the day and night. There is a variety of different security devices utilized at the facility including electronic passes, PIN (personal identification number) codes, closed-circuit TV cameras, motion detectors, etc. All staff who work in the facility must be cleared by CSIS and the RCMP to Secret Level II. This includes not only scientists working in the laboratories but all personnel.

Please see the response to Question 2 for more information on the safety aspect in regards to the surrounding neighbourhood.

Q10. In the area there are abandoned buildings with graffiti on them and homes that are boarded up. If someone from another country wanted to visit Winnipeg and invest money in the laboratory they may think this isn't the place because of the surroundings. There is also a strip of property next to the lab that has high weeds in the summer. Is there anyone sitting on the

committee who lives in the area, and I would like to myself, if I was going to sit once a month in these meetings, could I?

A10. The Canadian Science Centre for Human and Animal Health understands and shares the concerns regarding the condition of the neighbourhood and, as the committee stated at the meeting, the Centre is hopeful that its presence here will help with urban renewal and will encourage more businesses to come to the area. One of the reasons the laboratory was built in Winnipeg was to assist with economic development. Many people feel the high level of security in and around the Centre has had a positive effect on the safety of the neighbourhood.

All three levels of government are cooperating and investing in initiatives to help address some of these concerns. This includes programs such as the current Winnipeg Partnership Agreement and the Winnipeg Housing and Homelessness Initiative. For more information on these types of programs, please contact the Government of Canada at 1-800-OCanada, the Government of Manitoba at (204) 945-3744, or the City of Winnipeg at (204) 986-2171. There are also a number of community-based organizations and charitable groups trying to assist with solutions to these concerns, many of them would welcome the participation of local residents.

The Canadian Science Centre does not own the property of concern to the north of the building but will discuss with the Community Liaison Committee how best we might be able to address this issue with the City of Winnipeg.

As the Community Liaison Committee stated at the meeting, there is currently no member who resides in the area immediately surrounding the laboratory, though there has been in the past and one member has worked in this district for a number of years. Nominations from people in the immediate area surrounding the laboratory are strongly encouraged. Please see the response to Question 6 for more information on the nomination process.

1. Autoclave - a device to expose items to steam at a high pressure in order to decontaminate the materials or render them sterile.

Further information can be obtained by contacting:

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