

# Research Licence Committee Meeting

25 July 2007

21 Bloomsbury Street London WC1B 3HF

## MINUTES Item 4

**Research Project R0175: The effect of biomass reduction on embryo development after biopsy of either one or two blastomeres.**

**Based at Glasgow Royal Infirmary (0037)**

**Licence Renewal**

Members:

Richard Harries – Chair, Lay Member  
Clare Brown, Lay Member  
Maybeth Jamieson, Consultant Embryologist, Glasgow Royal Infirmary  
William Ledger – Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, University of Sheffield  
Rebekah Dundas – Lay Member

In Attendance:

Marion Witton – Head of Inspection  
Frances Clift, Legal Adviser  
Joanne McAlpine, Acting Committee Secretary  
Barbara Lewis, Observer

Conflicts of Interest: Maybeth Jamieson declared a conflict of interest in relation to this item and withdrew from the meeting.

The following papers were considered by the Committee:

- papers for Licence Committee (45 pages)
- no papers were tabled.

1. The papers for this item were presented by Ms Sarah Hopper. Ms Hopper informed the committee that the original research licence was granted in September 2006 and the renewal inspection visit took place on 29 May 2007.

2. Ms Hopper confirmed that the recommendations made by the inspection team have been actioned by the PR and the peer reviewer has agreed that the research licence should continue in its current form.

3. The Committee applied the statutory tests in considering the application. To start, the Committee identified the activity under consideration as the use of

donated embryos in research. The Committee agreed that these activities are not prohibited under the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990.

4. The Committee agreed that in the context of the project of research the activity appear to be necessary or desirable for the following specified purposes:

- Increasing knowledge about the development of embryos

*Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990 Schedule s(2)(a)*

5. The Committee agreed that they continued to be satisfied that the proposed research could not be undertaken without the use of human embryos.

6. The Committee agreed that they were satisfied with the patient information and consent forms submitted by the centre, now that the patient information has been amended to include contact details for an independent person that patients could call if they wish to discuss the project with a person not directly involved with the work.

7. The Committee were satisfied that the requirements for granting a licence under section 16 of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990 were fulfilled and decided to renew the licence for research for a period of three years.

Signed..... Date.....  
Richard Harries (Chair)