

## **Advisory Committee on Dangerous Pathogens (ACDP) – Summary of 79<sup>th</sup> Meeting**

The ACDP held its 79<sup>th</sup> meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2005. The main agenda items discussed were:

### ➤ **Matters arising**

Members were invited to attend a Home Office meeting to discuss the review of Schedule 5 of the Anti-Terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001.

Members were informed that the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) is producing guidance with the Health Protection Agency (HPA) on the microbiological risks associated with operating spa pools. ACDP would be asked to comment on the guidance during the consultation phase of its production later in 2005.

### ➤ **Reports from ACDP Working Groups**

#### ○ **TSE WG**

The third meeting of the Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy Working Group (TSE WG) was held on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2004. Members discussed the HSE guidance *Infection at work: Controlling the risks from human remains* and an updated risk assessment on vCJD transmission via surgery.

#### ○ **CL4 WG**

The Containment Level 4 Working Group (CL4 WG) was reconvened and held its first meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2004. Members were updated on HSE's Chief Scientist's Workshop on CL4 work, and discussed the format and content of the new CL4 guidance.

#### ○ **BSE Occupational Guidance Drafting Group**

The Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) Occupational Guidance Drafting Group met on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2004 to discuss the latest draft of the revised ACDP guidance *BSE (Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy): Background and general occupational guidance*.

### ➤ **Reports from other Advisory Committees and Groups**

#### ○ **SEAC**

Members were shown the agendas and minutes from the Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee (SEAC) meetings held on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2004 and 30<sup>th</sup> November 2004.

#### ○ **NepNei**

Members saw a summary of the second meeting of the National Expert Panel on New and Emerging Infections (NepNei) held on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2004 and the agenda for the third meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2004.

#### ○ **UKZG**

Members were informed that the UK Zoonoses Group (UKZG), which met on the 9<sup>th</sup> November 2004, discussed *Salmonella enteridis* non-phage type 4 and current UK research into rabies-related lyssavirus in Daubenton bats.

### ➤ **ACDP work plan for 2005 (ACDP/79/P5)**

Members agreed their work plan for 2005 (see Annex 1).

Members also asked HSE to review the ACDP guidance *Protection against blood-borne viruses in the workplace: HIV and Hepatitis* against current knowledge and recommend to the Committee whether it required updating at a subsequent meeting.

➤ **Role of the HPA Zoonoses Network (ACDP/79/P6)**

Members were informed about the work of the HPA *Human-Animal Infections and Risk Surveillance Group (HAIRS)*. This forum has been established to identify and discuss infections with the potential for interspecies transfer, ie potential zoonotic infections. The Group discusses hazard identification, risk assessment, risk management and risk communication. HAIRS reports its findings directly to relevant Government Departments, eg Department of Health (DH), Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), as well as providing regular feedback to cross-Government committees such as the UK Zoonoses Group (UKZG), the National Expert Panel on New and Emerging Infections (NepNei). ACDP asked HPA to provide them with a regular update on its work.

➤ **The status of waste from a vaccine manufacturer (ACDP/79/P7)**

Defra asked for ACDP's advice on the classification of waste from a vaccine manufacturer under EC Regulation 1774/2002.

➤ **Update on the activities of the Scientific Advisory Committee on Genetic Modification (SACGM) (ACDP/79/P8)**

Due to the last minute unavailability of the presenter this item was deferred to the next ACDP meeting.

➤ **Any other business**

Members were advised that Defra would be holding a desktop exercise to test the recently published West Nile Virus (WNV) Strategy.

## Annex 1 ACDP Work Plan, 2005

- To develop comprehensive guidance on intentional work with highly pathogenic (ACDP HG 4 and others) agents including consideration of appropriate training.
- To investigate the options for revising and updating the current ACDP Guidance: '*Management and Control of Viral Haemorrhagic Fevers*'
- To complete the update of the ACDP's 1996 BSE Occupational Guidance, which will be published on the ACDP website once complete.
- To produce the electronic newsletter of the ACDP: the *Biological Agents Bulletin*, in response to the information needs of the 'Dangerous Pathogens' stakeholder networks.
- To maintain oversight and monitor developments on the suggested link between *Mycobacterium Avium* subspecies *Paratuberculosis* (MAP) and human health.
- To provide advice on worker protection and public health implications for government guidelines dealing with possible bio-terrorism emergencies i.e. smallpox
- To review the suitability of the current ACDP guidance dealing with Blood Borne Viruses (BBVs): *Protection against blood-borne infections in the workplace: HIV and hepatitis 1996* (ISBN0113219539).
- To address issues relating to the worker safety and public health implications of Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSEs). The work of the TSE WG also includes the production and monitoring of the current TSE guidance, as necessary.
- To monitor developments and provide advice on the implications of UK cases of European Bat Lyssavirus (EBLV).
- To provide advice, where necessary, to the Department of Health/Defra on the work of the Pet Travel Scheme (PETS).