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The following information is provided as an update for researchers on matters pertaining to research ethics and compliance. For more information and contact details please refer to the Research Ethics and Compliance Unit web site. (<http://www.adelaide.edu.au/ethics/>)

Amendments to the Gene Technology Regulations 2001 - Gene Technology Amendment Regulations 2006

The Gene Technology Amendment Regulations 2006 were signed by the Governor-General on 30 November 2006 and were tabled in both houses of the Australian Parliament on 5 December 2006. The Gene Technology Amendment Regulations 2006 amend the Gene Technology Regulations 2001.

These regulations commenced on 31 March 2007.

Further information about the amended Gene Technology Regulations can be found at the Office of the Gene Technology Regulator web site. (<http://www.ogtr.gov.au/regsreview/regsamend.html>)

The amended Regulations can also be found at:

(<http://www.frli.gov.au/ComLaw/Legislation/LegislativeInstrument1.nsf/asmade/bytitle/64D84187F86DA93ACA25721700133CFB?OpenDocument>)

Office of the Gene Technology Regulator – Information session 5 June 2007

Officers of the Office of the Gene Technology Regulator (OGTR) will be visiting Adelaide on Tuesday 5 June 2007 to hold an information session, the purpose of which is to provide information on changes to the Gene Technology Regulations, which came into force on 31 March 2007.

The information session will be held in the morning at a venue in the Flinders Medical Centre and repeated in the afternoon at a venue in the University of Adelaide. Details of the sessions are listed below.

The session is aimed at members of Institutional Biosafety Committees (IBCs), principal investigators of Genetically Modified Organism (GMO) dealings, senior investigators, supervisors of laboratories, personnel involved in administrative aspects of the use of GMOs - essentially any personnel that need to know about the amendments to the Gene Technology Regulations.

The IBC encourages all personnel dealing with GMOs to attend.

It is essential that for the purpose of catering/ensuring venue capacity, personnel register their intention to attend with the relevant contact for each session.

OGTR Information Sessions: Tuesday 5 June 2007

<p>10.00am - 12 noon FLINDERS MEDICAL CENTRE Lecture Theatre 2 Level 5 Please register by Thursday 31 May: Vanessa Eig (08) 8204 4062; vanessa.eig@flinders.edu.au</p>	<p>2.30pm - 4.30pm THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE Florey Lecture Theatre Level 1, Medical School, Frome Road, Adelaide Please register by Thursday 31 May: recu@adelaide.edu.au</p>
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National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (2007)

The new National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research 2007 came into effect on 28 March 2007 and replaces the previous document National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Research Involving Humans (1999).

It is necessary for all persons associated with the University of Adelaide to obtain ethical clearance for any activity involving human research – all human research must comply with the new National Statement.

(<http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/publications/synopses/e72syn.htm>)

Call for nominations for the Gene Technology Committees

Nominations are called for the Gene Technology Technical Advisory Committee (GTTAC) and the proposed new committee, the Gene Technology Ethics and Community Consultative Committee (GTECCC). Appointments of suitably qualified individuals are usually for a period of three years.

Information about the regulatory scheme, the functions of each committee, requisite expertise and experience of members, indicative workload and the nomination forms are contained in the nomination packages and can be accessed via the links below or on request from the OGTR.

Nominations must be submitted to the OGTR by 4 June 2007.

Office of the Gene Technology Regulator, PO Box 100 WODEN ACT 2606 (<http://www.ogtr.gov.au>)
Telephone: 1800 181 030 Facsimile: (02) 6271 4202 E-mail: ogtr@health.gov.au

Gene Technology Committees
(<http://www.ogtr.gov.au/committee/index.htm>)

Gene Technology Technical Advisory Committee (GTTAC) Nomination Package
(<http://www.ogtr.gov.au/pdf/committee/gttacnominations07.pdf>)

Gene Technology Ethics and Community Consultative Committee (GTECCC) Nomination Package
(<http://www.ogtr.gov.au/pdf/committee/gtecccnominations07.pdf>)

Guidelines for the generation, breeding, care and use of genetically modified and cloned animals for scientific purposes

These guidelines have been produced by the National Health and Medical Research Council's (NHMRC's) Animal Welfare Committee (AWC) as introductory material to assist investigators, Animal Ethics Committees (AECs), animal technicians and the broader community when they consider research projects involving the generation and use of genetically modified and cloned animals of all species. These include laboratory, agricultural, companion animals and wildlife developed and used in research.

The guidelines:

- assist in the consideration of the use of and impact on animals produced by genetic modification including random (chemical) mutagenesis and cloning;
- do not focus on the specifics of reproductive technology;
- should assist investigators, AECs and animal carers in maximising the care and welfare of animals in specific research projects;
- may assist AECs with operations of standard operating procedures (SOPs) used for genetically modified animals;
- should be considered by AECs when reviewing SOPs associated with the production of genetically modified animals;
- are designed in part to be a tool for reflection and to focus and stimulate discussion on relevant issues.

The Guidelines are available at the NHMRC web site.

(<http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/publications/synopses/ea17syn.htm>)

Regulatory restrictions on the importation and possession of genetically modified ornamental fish

The OGTR has issued a Fact Sheet on the regulatory restrictions relating to genetically modified ornamental fish. The Fact Sheet can be found at the OGTR web site. (<http://www.ogtr.gov.au/rtf/handbook/glofishimport.rtf>)

Quarantine risk material – Reminder for users

It must be reinforced that all personnel dealing with quarantine risk material must ensure that they are aware of and comply with the current Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) requirements and conditions. All import permit holders are responsible for ensuring that any individual that deals with quarantine risk material imported using their permit is also aware of and complies with AQIS requirements.

Heads of Schools, laboratory and project supervisors and import permit holders must ensure that:

- all conditions of import permits are complied with;

- for material required to be dealt with in a Quarantine Approved Premise (QAP), an Accredited Person must personally conduct or directly supervise all activities involving physical contact with or handling of items subject to quarantine in the QAP;
- every individual QAP has at least one Accredited Person available at all times;
- all conditions of approval of QAPs are complied with;
- appropriate records, approvals and registers are maintained;
- transfer of quarantine risk material between QAPs only occurs in accordance with permit conditions or with appropriate written approval from AQIS.

More information is available from the University's Quarantine Resources web site (<http://www.adelaide.edu.au/ethics/quarantine/>) and from the AQIS web site (<http://www.daffa.gov.au/aqis>).

Export controls

The export of certain goods is subject to regulation. Researchers should ensure that they have obtained appropriate permits or licences as may be required for any materials that are to be exported.

More information about export controls is available at <https://www.adelaide.edu.au/ethics/export.html>