

# DRAFT

## MINUTES

Telephone Conference Call - November 21, 1980

### Ad Hoc Working Group on Potent Toxins

Dr. Milewski replied to some of the procedural questions raised on the November 4, 1980 conference call. She said an ad hoc advisory group could be instituted to advise both the RAC and NIH on proposals concerning potent toxins. She said the composition of the committee could be defined to include experts in toxicology. She added that the group could request that all proposals on potent toxins already accepted by the NIH be re-reviewed. Two proposals are in this category, cloning of the Pseudomonas aeruginosa exotoxin A gene and the Staphylococcus aureus Tox A gene.

Dr. Maas asked if a meeting could be arranged for January 7, 1981. Dr. Milewski replied that it could be. All of the participants (Dr. Mason not participating) agreed.

Dr. Maas suggested that Dr. Gill's proposed preamble defining toxins would be a useful beginning point. Dr. Collier added that toxin purity should be considered in any statement.

Dr. Milewski asked Dr. Gill if his figure of 100 microgram/kilogram body weight would be included in the preamble. Dr. Gill explained that any toxins producing no reaction at this amount would not have to be considered on a case-by-case basis. He gave the example of the enzyme streptokinase which can produce a nasty reaction but is not a toxin. Enzymes such as streptokinase would be excluded by any definition of a potent toxin.

Dr. Gill and Dr. Milewski agreed to work on language for defining a toxin. This language would be circulated to the ad hoc group for comments.

Dr. Collier commented on the Pseudomonas aeruginosa Exotoxin A proposal. He said the status of this proposal could pose a dilemma for any working group.

Dr. Milewski agreed to send the draft minutes of the conference calls to all participants for their comments and suggestions.

Participants:

Dr. Maas (Chairman)

Dr. Collier

Dr. Bernheimer

Dr. Levine

Dr. Gill

Dr. Milewski