

Baculovirus Reference Material Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 5, 2011, Norfolk, Virginia USA

At the first ISBioTech meeting, a second discussion about the need for a [reference material](#) was had in a special lunch time session – a follow-up to an initial meeting in Kuopio, Finland. The meeting was chaired by Amine Kamen (National Research Council Canada – Biotechnology Research Institute) and Tom Kost (GSK). Tom Kost gave his perspective on the need, emphasizing that there is a need to be forward thinking, although posing the question: *is now the time to start?* Will there come a time in the near future when a reference material will be required? Is it the right time to be pro-active given that baculoviruses are not only being used in the production of therapeutics/prophylactics, but are also being studied as the therapeutic/prophylactics?

Attendance: Thomas Kost, Amine Kamen, Keith Carson, Kari Airene, Gale Smith, Zahia Hannas, Gary Blissard, Otto Merten, Loy Volkman, Donald Jarvis, Clifton McPherson, Marc Aucoin, Ricardo Jimenez, Arifa Khan, Lauri Kreimeyer, + a half-dozen more

It was clear from the questions in the audience that many wondered why a reference material was needed or how it was going to be used.

Questions from the audience included (and excuse me for not being able to attribute the questions to the right people):

- Who could use it?
- How could they use it?
- Who will have access to this?
- Would it only be available to academics?
- Material may or may not have ip issues?
- Will there be a limit of 2 vials per lab per year as per other reference materials?
- How easy will it be for industry to use it?
- How will this work in relation to the commercialization clause at ATCC?
- What are we trying to standardize?
- Don't we already have a control?
- Commercial entities have their own controls that they already use.
- What do you want to know about? Deep sequencing of the genome? Mass spec? Of what?
- What is meant by define a baculovirus as best we can?
- Are we just looking for a reference for a particular antigen?
- Are we looking for ways to identify particular components?
- Would you use a recombinant baculovirus?
- Wouldn't a wild-type baculovirus be better as a vial of polyhedral could last for a very long time?

As a well characterized material, one point of discussion that came up was that of using it to help characterize spiking studies to study viral clearance. It was noted however that this material was not to be used to do the spiking studies but to compare the material used in the spiking study to the reference material.