

BRITISH PHARMACOPOEIA COMMISSION

Panel of Experts BIO: Biological and Biotechnological Products

SUMMARY MINUTES

The first meeting of the Panel was held at Market Towers, 1 Nine Elms Lane, London SW8 5NQ on Tuesday 17th October 2006.

Present: Mrs M Dow (Chair), Dr L Tsang (Vice-chair), Dr A F Bristow (Chair for item BIO(06)12), Prof. D C Calam, Mr B Mason, Dr S Poole, Dr D Sesardic, Dr J N A Tettey, Dr A Thomas.

In attendance: Dr R A Pask-Hughes, Dr M O’Kane, Mr S Young.

Apologies for absence were received from Dr J Lawrence and Mr W Tarbit.

Mr A Bentley also attended the meeting.

1 Opening Remarks

Panel of Experts BIO: Biological and Biotechnological Products The Chair welcomed members to the meeting and invited them to introduce themselves, giving a brief outline of their interests with respect to pharmacopoeial matters. It was noted Panel of Experts BIO was formed following an amalgamation of Panels of Experts H: Biological and Biotechnological Products and Panel J: Immunological Products.

Meetings and attendance The Panel would meet on an *ad hoc* basis depending on the work programme. Selected members would be invited to future meetings dependent on the content of the agenda.

BP Secretariat Two new professional members would join the staff on 6th November 2006.

British Pharmacopoeia 2007 The BP 2007 had been published and would become effective on 1 January 2007.

I MINUTES

- 2 The minutes of the meeting of the former Panel of Experts H: Biological and Biotechnological Products held on 9th February 2006 were confirmed.

II MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- 3 **Menotrophin** Information concerning the replacement of the Test for Pyrogens with the Test for Bacterial endotoxins was being sought.
- 4 **Streptokinase and Streptodornase Topical Powder** The formulation had been withdrawn from the work programme since it was no longer available.
- 5 **Low molecular Weight Heparins.** Information had been obtained relating to preparation of the monographs.

- 6 **Somatostatin** The recommendation concerning revision had been forwarded to the UKD.
- 7 **Nomenclature of Hyaluronan** The matter would be discussed further by the BPC advisors on nomenclature.
- 8 **Bacterial endotoxins: Glucose Intravenous Infusion** The advice of the Panel had been forwarded to the former Committee D: Medicinal Chemicals (Expert Advisory Group: MC3).
- 9 **Calcitonin (Salmon) Injection: Related peptides** The monograph had been amended and would be included in the BP 2008.
- 10 **New BP Monographs for Formulations** The discussion on pharmacopoeial requirements had been brought to the attention of the BPC.
- 11 **Ph. Eur. General Text 5.3: Statistical analysis** It was noted that the General Text was currently under review.

III REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

- 12 **General Matters** BIO(06)1

Expert Advisory Groups and Panels Following a review of the BP Committees and Panels of Experts, the Committees had been re-designated Expert Advisory Groups (EAGs) and the abbreviation for each EAG and Panel of Experts had changed to reflect more closely the full name of the relevant EAG/Panel.

Membership of Panel BIO A list of members' contact details was provided.

Annual report of the BPC The forthcoming report would be available on the MHRA website.

- 13 **Work Programme of Panel of Experts BIO: Update** BIO(06)2

European Pharmacopoeia and British Pharmacopoeia The current relevant work programmes were provided along with target publication dates for BP monographs.

Immunologicals: omissions Since Percutaneous Bacillus Calmette-Guerin Vaccine, Tetanus Vaccine, Schick Test Toxin and Schick Control were no longer available in the UK, it was agreed that recommendations should be made to the BPC to omit the monographs from the next edition of the BP.

Immunologicals: enquiries on possible new candidate monographs

Meningococcal Group C-Haemophilus Type b Conjugate Vaccine A recommendation for a BP monograph for the vaccine was to be put forward to the BPC.

Pandemic Flu Vaccine It was agreed that any monograph for pandemic flu vaccine should be considered on a Europe-wide level. Existing guidance and Ph. Eur. general monographs should provide sufficient control.

14 New BP monographs for formulations

BIO(06)3

Following a review of Ph. Eur. monographs for bulk substances it was agreed that Leuprorelin Injection should be proposed as a candidate new BP monograph. A number of other monograph proposals would be considered for progression when Ph. Eur. bulk substance monographs were established.

Further advice would be sought relating to clinical differences between Heparin Sodium and Heparin Calcium Injections.

15 Non-invasive Insulin Treatments

BIO(06)4

It was agreed that the titles of specific insulin preparations in the BP should not be revised to indicate the route of administration until the completion of a review by Ph. Eur. Group of Experts 6. It was recommended, however, that the title of the general monograph for Insulin Preparations should be amended to Insulin Preparations, Injectable in line with the current Ph. Eur. title.

It was agreed that a request should be made to the UKD to recommend to the EPC that inhalable insulin preparations is considered for addition to the work programme of the Ph. Eur.

16 Monocyte Activation Test for pro-inflammatory/pyrogenic contaminants

BIO(06)5

It was noted that monocyte activation tests for pro-inflammatory and pyrogenic contaminants had been used since 1998 and were well established. A number of factors had led to a delay in the consideration of the test for pharmacopoeial purposes.

Meetings

A Ph. Eur. Group of Experts entitled Monocyte Activation Test had been created recently to reconsider including the test in the Pharmacopoeia. The Group was scheduled to meet in November 2006. In addition a conference, entitled Alternative Pyrogen Testing, had been held in Germany in March 2006. It had been generally agreed at the conference that, with the experience gained, the method should be suitable for application as a pharmacopoeial test.

Pharmacopoeial test

A draft test was presented to members. It was agreed that in addition to the receipt of validation data, the outcome of the November 2006 meeting of the Ph. Eur. Group of Experts should be awaited before further consideration.

17 Bacterial Endotoxins: Limits

BIO(06)6

An enquiry had been received regarding bacterial endotoxin limits for different routes of administration. It was understood that other regulatory bodies apparently did not provide guidance on endotoxin limits for routes of administration other than intravenous and intrathecal. Members considered that the pharmacopoeial requirements were sufficient to cover for other routes. A query had also been received on the endotoxin limits for water used to wash instruments. It was agreed that this issue should be referred to the Devices Division of the MHRA.

18 Safety Tests

BIO(06)7

It was agreed that BP monographs including the test for Pyrogens should be revised to replace the test with that for Bacterial endotoxins. The draft revised monographs would be sent for comment and a notice on the matter placed in MAIL.

IV REVISION OF MONOGRAPHS

19 General monographs for Antisera and Vaccines

BIO(06)8

Members considered that the general monographs for Antisera and Vaccines should apply to all relevant products regardless as to whether or not specific monographs were available. It was agreed that the name of the BP monograph title Antisera should be changed to Immunosera and thus be in line with that of the Ph. Eur. A similar amendment would be proposed to Panel of Experts VIP: Veterinary Immunological Products relating to the Veterinary Antisera monograph.

20 BP Abbreviations for Vaccines

BIO(06)9

An *ad hoc* working group to the BPC had conducted a review of vaccine abbreviations with the ultimate goal of a single agreed format for abbreviations in the UK. As the result of the review, 24 revised abbreviations and 5 new abbreviations had been included in the BP 2005. Revision of all the diphtheria antigen-containing vaccine abbreviations had been deferred since further discussion was necessary.

21 Monograph Format

BIO(06)10

Members considered that the BP section of the monograph for Somatropin Injection, immediately prior to the Ph. Eur. monograph for Somatropin for Injection, did not add value to the monograph and that advice should be sought from EAG: PCY.

It was agreed that the vaccine monographs in the BP that consisted of two combined Ph. Eur. monographs should be separated into their respective Ph. Eur. components. It was noted that some of the vaccine preparations were no longer available and it was recommended that the UKD should be asked to bring this to the attention of the EPC.

22 Gonadorelin Hydrochloride and Gonadorelin Injection

BIO(06)11

Responses received during the review process indicated that the draft BP monographs were no longer appropriate. It was agreed that a recommendation to omit the monographs from the work programme should be submitted to the BPC.

Gonadorelin Acetate Inclusion of the salt form in the Ph. Eur. monograph title was queried. It was agreed further advice should be sought.

V MONOGRAPHS IN PROGRESS

23 Erythropoietin Injection BIO(06)12

The draft monograph would be included in a future BP publication, subject to comments from stakeholders.

24 Human Glucagon Injection BIO(06)13

The draft monograph would be included in a future BP publication, subject to comments from stakeholders.

25 Goserelin Implants BIO(06)14

The draft monograph would be included in a future BP publication, subject to comments from stakeholders.

26 Insulin Aspart Injection BIO(06)15

The draft monograph would be included in a future BP publication, subject to comments from stakeholders.

27 Insulin Lispro Injection BIO(06)16

The draft monograph would be included in a future BP publication, subject to comments from stakeholders.

V NEW MONOGRAPHS

28 Desmopressin Tablets BIO(06)17

The draft monograph would be included in a future BP publication, subject to comments from stakeholders.

29 Interferon Alfa-2 Injection BIO(06)18

The draft monograph would be included in a future BP publication, subject to comments from stakeholders.

VI EUROPEAN PHARMACOPOEIA

30 Comments from the BPC BIO(06)19

It was noted the statements of Comments from the BPC that had been sent to Strasbourg.

31 Comments Requested on Ph. Eur. Draft Monographs BIO(06)20

No documents relating to the work of Panel of Experts BIO: Biological and Biotechnological Products had been published in Pharmeuropa 18.4.

32 Texts adopted at the 124th and 125th Session

BIO(06)21

Lists of the documents relevant to the work of Group of Experts 6 and Group 15 and adopted at the 124th and 125th Sessions of the European Pharmacopoeia Commission (March 2006 and June 2006) were provided for information.

33 Groups of Experts 6, 15 and Working Parties CTP and GTP

BIO(06)22

Members noted the formal reports of the above Ph. Eur. Groups.

List of Acronyms/Synonyms

Acronym/Synonym	Name
BAN	British Approved Name
BP	British Pharmacopoeia
BP (Vet)	British Pharmacopoeia (Veterinary)
BPC	British Pharmacopoeia Commission
BPCRS	British Pharmacopoeia Chemical Reference Substance
BRP	Biological Reference Preparation
BSP	Biological Standardisation Programme
CHM	Commission on Human Medicines
CRS	Chemical Reference Substance
EAG	Expert Advisory Group
EPBRP	European Pharmacopoeia Biological Reference Preparation
EPC	European Pharmacopoeia Commission
EPCRS	European Pharmacopoeia Chemical Reference Substance
EU	European Union
FIP	International Pharmaceutical Federation
FOI	Freedom of Information
GC	Gas chromatography
ISO	International Organisation for Standardisation
LC	Liquid chromatography
LD	Licensing Division
LGC	Laboratory of the Government Chemist, Teddington
LR	BP Laboratory Report
MHRA	Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency
NIBSC	National Institute for Biological Standards and Control
NOAH	National Office of Animal Health
NPA	National Pharmacopoeial Authority
OMCL	Official Medicines Control Laboratory
Ph. Eur.	European Pharmacopoeia
TGA	Therapeutic Goods Administration, Australia
TLC	Thin layer chromatography
UK	United Kingdom
UKD	United Kingdom Delegation [to the European Pharmacopoeia]
USP	United States Pharmacopoeia
Group of Experts 6	European Pharmacopoeia Group of Experts 6: Biological Substances
Group of Experts 7	European Pharmacopoeia Group of Experts 7: Antibiotics
Group of Experts 15	European Pharmacopoeia Group of Experts 15: Sera and Vaccines
Ph. Eur. Working Party CTP	European Pharmacopoeia Working Party: Cell Therapy Products
Ph. Eur. Working Party GTP	European Pharmacopoeia Working Party: Gene Therapy Products