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15 Aug 08 | Volume 3, Number 4 | Page 1 of 6

Connecting People, Science and Regulation

In This Issue:

Elements of a Client-CRO Relationship
The Expectations of the Method
By Melissa Smith
MJQuality Solutions, LLC

MentorNet: A Leadership Tool for Professionals
By Enith Morillo, M.S.
Supervisor Quality Control
Tedor Pharma Inc

NEPDA President's Message
May 2008 NEPDA Meeting Summary:
By Louis Zaczkiewicz, CQE-ASQ
Senior Engineer
Hyaluron Contract Manufacturing

Student Chapter News:
Middlesex Students Culture Human Embryonic Stem Cells
By Jessie Klein, Ph.D.
Associate Dean Math and Science
Middlesex Community College

In The Next Issue:

QA Before you Outsource-
Evaluating the Quality Oversight at CMOs
By Jonathan Morse
Complya Consulting Group, LLC

Facility Tour, Glass Defects and RFID Meeting

Wednesday, September 17, 2008

Event Topics/Titles:

A Tour of the Hyaluron Contract Manufacturing facility in Burlington, MA will start at 3:30 pm and will run at continuously until 5 pm.

The dinner meeting will begin at 5:30 pm at the Hilton Garden Inn, in Burlington, MA featuring Nicholas DeBello and Michael Eakins, PhD

Registration only at NEPDA website
http://pdachapters.org/newengland

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Elements of a Client-CRO Relationship

The Expectations of the Method

By Melissa Smith, MJQuality Solutions, LLC

When the search begins for the choice of a CRO (Contract Research Organization) to undertake part of all of the Method Development-Optimization-Qualification-Transfer-Validation lifecycle, the elements of the search and the foundation of information that support the search are many and complicated. If you keep an eye on the details, this can develop to a solid and well understood relationship that will favor both client and CRO.

Quality Agreement: Of course, it begins with a well developed and defined Quality Agreement. While there is plenty of information available on the contents of a Quality Agreement, there is an element of a Quality Agreement that can be overlooked. That is-it's availability to quality staff on a routine basis. This is a working document that should be readily available to staff. Depending on the client's quality documentation system, the Quality Agreement can actually be difficult to refer to in a timely manner. Especially when you have multiple CRO relationships, it may be beneficial to work with your quality group to see if there is a way to issue working copies of the Quality Agreements in a defined location or binder.

Project Management: There are elements of your relationship with a CRO that are critical to success. Active management of these elements, as time goes by, is important to this ongoing success. Project management and the experience of the project managers for both client and CRO are important considerations. Ask for the organizational chart, find out how long your project manager has been in this role, and if this is their primary role or if they have other responsibilities besides managing projects.

Method Expectations: An aspect of the CRO-Client relationship which I would like to explore is the requirements of the method -the expectations of the method. Unless there is a match of expectations on both sides, the swiftness of the project can suffer as well as the 'fit' of the final methods to those expectations which were perhaps known but not well communicated. Figure 1 is an outline of some aspects of Client-CRO method expectations. Key topics are highlighted. This format can be easily referred to during the project scope definition as well as during the (weekly) meetings to help define and assess progress. It is also a good training tool.

Probe, Question and Outline all the expectations. These are all good things to do during this process of method discussion in a Client-CRO relationship. There is no such thing as a stupid question, because what you get back should be a good answer.

This article is just an introductory look to the Client-CRO relationship. Next month we look into the Quality Management of the Client-CMO relationship in an article by Jonathan Morse.

Figure 1: Method Definition and Expectations in Client-CRO Relationships

Method Expectations in a Client-CRO Relationship
Is there a stated objective for the method-what is it intending to measure?
Is this stability indicating-if so, are stress testing results available. Will the test method be used for in-process, drug substance, drug product, process validation work? What does the method DO and what DOESN'T it do?
What is the ICH classification for the procedure and what are the expectations for each parameter?
Define your expectations for accuracy, precision, linear range (and LOQ if applicable) What level of validation will you require? What does the CRO mean by these terms-qualification, verification, validation, transfer/qualification?
Has the method been optimized?
Has the method had robustness issues? What is the matrix and is there any evidence of interference?
Data availability-Data Collection-Data Review?
Have samples been tested using this method? Have you collected all the test data in one trending file? Are there spreadsheets in use, are they version controlled, do they write-over previous data?
Are critical materials, standards and controls available?
How much will be needed to support the work planned? What does the phrase 'or equivalent' mean-how is equivalence proven? How much product is available for the development-transfer-validation process?
Is the same equipment and software available?
If not, address these early in the discussion.
How will training on the method be executed?
Will this involve on-site training by client?
Does the SOP have system suitability and sample validity criteria?
Check outlier procedure, rounding and significant digit procedures.
Standards need assigned values and controls defined ranges.
What is the retest procedure for standard?
How to calculate the reportable value, what is averaged, what is the specification?
What will the reportable result be comprised of-how many replicates, dilutions... Does the capability of the method match the needs of the specification?
During transfer of the method to CRO, will there be round-robin testing for active comparison of client-CRO equivalence?
If so, how will the material be shared-will it be pooled and divided?
What is the expected 'valid' rate of the method?
What are the criteria by which you will judge when a method is ready for your use?
Documentation requirements?
What will the method development report look like? Will you have visibility to the training documents? Do the method SOP's cover the equipment calibration? If the method is compendial, is there a step that does not exactly match the compendia? If the method is compendial, is there a step that you are assuming or have proven equivalence to? Does the client have approval authority for all change controls?

MentorNet: A Leadership Tool for Professionals

By Enith Morillo, M.S., Supervisor Quality Control
Tedor Pharma Inc

Founded in 1997, MentorNet is an online non-profit organization with a mission to support women and underrepresented minorities in engineering and related scientific fields. Over the last decade, their One-on-One E-Mentoring program has successfully paired over 22,000 professionals as mentors with students and emerging professionals from over 115 participating colleges and universities, including Yale, Harvard University, and MIT.

Mentoring can help PDA professionals enhance their leadership and coaching skills, strengthen their technical and industry knowledge, and promote collegiate professionalism in their networks. MentorNet mentors currently represent over 850 companies and professional societies including prestigious corporations such as IBM, Agilent Technologies, Texas Instruments, and The MathWorks.

For more details about volunteering some of your technical expertise, career wisdom, and knowledge of industry by becoming a mentor, please visit http://www.mentornet.net and check out their One-on-One E-Mentoring Program. Be dynamic and contribute to global talent!

Student Chapter News

Middlesex Students Culture Human Embryonic Stem Cells

By Jessie Klein, Ph.D.
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During the spring of 2008, Victor Balala, Matt Piasecki and Dang Truong, students in the Biotechnology Program at Middlesex Community College, and NEPDA Student Chapter members conducted a research project with human embryonic stem cells. Under the supervision of Dr. Mariluci Bladon, the students optimized the conditions for establishing, maintaining, subculturing and cryopreserving human embryonic stem cells. Media for growing both the mouse feeder layer and the human embryonic stem cells were prepared. A mouse feeder layer (MAF) was developed by experimenting with both Mitomycin C-treated MAF cells and irradiated MAF cells. The students then successfully grew and subcultured and cryopreserved the human embryonic stem cells.

Dr. Bladon plans to use these SOP's in her Advanced Techniques in Biotechnology course and to possibly develop a short course for program graduates. A poster session on this work will be presented at the September meeting of the New England chapter of the PDA.

Funding for this project was provided by the Middlesex Community College Mathematics and Sciences Division and the Urban Massachusetts Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation NSF Grant.

NEPDA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

May 2008 NEPDA Meeting Summary

By *Louis Zaczkiewicz, CQE-ASQ*
Senior Engineer
Hyaluron Contract Manufacturing

Our May NEPDA meeting was held in Wells, Maine, and focused on environmental monitoring. We started at the Baker Company, located in the industrial park adjoining the Sanford Municipal airport. As I arrived at the facility, I sensed the quite, tranquil lifestyles stereotyped for life in Maine. I passed by a series of warehouse-appearing buildings with nobody around raising my concern: is this the right place? As I entered the last building on the road, I was warmly greeted and brought back to their training room, filled all around with all types of biological safety cabinets. This is where people come to learn about how to certify hoods and cleanrooms.

When the room filled with NEPDA members assigned for the first tour, we put on our safety glasses and embarked on an odyssey that would rival a Universal Studios back lot tour. We crossed the parking lot and entered one of those "warehouse" buildings. Immediately I was enthralled by its contents filled with people, machines, hoods and parts. This was a stark contrast to the tranquility outside.

Our first tour station was Quality Control. Our guide explained how they challenge their cabinets' airflow using atomized bacteria within a hood that is inside an ISO 5 test room (the bacteria will be contained within the hood).
We passed through their CAD workgroup, busy developing their new product and custom designs for use on their computerized punch and laser cutting machines. We then saw one of these laser cutting machines turn a 4-foot x 8-foot sheet of stainless steel effortlessly into foundations for a new cabinet. It took about a minute to carve it up with very little waste. Another machine made another series of punch-outs for another cabinet part. Then we passed a series of welders who assemble the parts into recognizable cabinets, along with stations for painting, electrical assembly, testing and certification. The culmination was seeing a series of pallets of completed hoods ready for a special order to France. Our final station is the showroom where they have a few of their newest isolator units, one fitted with a VHP sterilizer.
They have minimal stock, relying on a constant influx of shipments from their suppliers. They are proud to be able to complete orders within 2 weeks. In emergencies they've been know to complete custom orders in 24 hours.

The meeting location was Village By The Sea with a wonderful meeting room (and deluxe accommodations for those choosing to stay overnight). Our first speaker, Peter Harris, Director of Operations from B & V Testing, presented "Decon 2.0: Emerging Decontamination Technologies." Due to a last-minute family emergency, Jeanne Moldenhauer was unable to attend, but was able to secure a replacement speaker who worked with her on the Environmental Monitoring Task Force. Andrew Sage, principle scientist from Rapid Micro Biosystems, presented "Environmental Monitoring Using a Rapid, Non-Destructive, Automated, Compendial Method." We were very pleased with Andrew filling in at the last minute with a high quality, relevant presentation. Both presentations are available for viewing at the NEPDA website.
The meeting managers were Peter Harris and Maryellen Brown. The meeting sponsors were Accugenix, www.accugenix.com, Biotest Diagnostic Corporation, www.biotestusa.com, Masy Systems, www.masy.com, and Millipore, www.millipore.com.

We loved the facility and the great work by the Village By The Sea personnel so much, that we are considering having this location as an annual event. We also plan on finding another time that Jeanne Moldenhauer can come and deliver her presentation on the PDA Technical Report 13.

The New England Chapter of the PDA is pleased to announce the availability of business-card size advertising opportunities in our newsletter; at a cost of $100 per newsletter (other conditions apply—please see full details in our "Newsletter Sponsorship Policy", hyperlink provided below). Since its inception in 1988, our chapter has seen a significant growth in membership and participation. Our newsletter has the following reach:

- **Our direct e-mail distribution reaches over 1,800 contacts throughout New England.**
- **Our membership includes people from manufacturing, research, QA, QC, engineering, contract manufacturers, consultants, regulatory, etc.**
- **The newsletter is promoted at New England PDA's bi-monthly dinner meetings, often with company tours, which regularly attract 100-150 attendees.**
- **The newsletter is posted to our chapter's website at Global PDA (www.pda.org), an organization that has over 10,000 members.**

We offer vendors, consultants, operating companies and other organizations the opportunity to promote themselves and also support the NE PDA Chapter by purchasing advertising in our newsletter:

1. ***Download and fill out the "Newsletter Sponsorship Policy" form located at the Chapter Resources link of the NEPDA website: http://pdachapters.org/newengland***
2. ***Email artwork along with a scanned copy of your completed form prior to the deadline to melissa@mjqualitysolutions.com***
3. ***Submit the completed form with check payable to***

Treasurer, New England PDA
77 Briar Patch Road
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Deadline	Publication Date
October 15, 2008	November 2008
January 15, 2009	February 2009
April 15, 2009	May 2009

Questions:

About the newsletters and articles, advertising artwork? E-mail Melissa at melissa@mjqualitysolutions.com
About advertising opportunities? E-mail Rusty Morrison at morrison@pdachapters.org

PDA to Host Conference on Clinical Trials – Development and Regulation

Carrie Weaver, weaver@pda.org
Assistant Manager, Marketing Services
Parenteral Drug Association (PDA)

PDA will host a two-day Conference on the Development and Regulation of Clinical Trial Supplies, November 10-11, in Boston, Massachusetts. This important conference will bring together regulators, compendial experts and industry leaders who will provide **practical solutions** for organizations like yours involved in the manufacture, packaging, release and distribution of drug products under investigation in clinical trials. This conference is a great opportunity to learn how your company can **implement the latest GMP practices** and **meet regulations**.

The comprehensive conference agenda will include discussions on the latest international regulations that impact the preparation and distribution of clinical trial materials. You will also learn how other companies' best practices foster an efficient transition from supporting toxicology and proof of concept into early phase clinical trials. Case studies on topics such as:

- Integral implementation from mid- to late-phase development
- Challenges during development with respect to Chemistry Manufacturing Controls (CMC)
- Qualification and validation of clinical trial material manufacturing
- Clinical trial materials supply chain, distribution, organization and control

In addition, **international industry representatives** will present strategies for preparation of clinical trial applications, as well as harmonization of US and European applications, Common Technical Document (CTD/eCTD) format, and meetings with regulatory agencies.

Hyaluron Contract Manufacturing (HCM) will be offering a facility tour and open house immediately following the conference. The tour offers a unique opportunity to view HCM's state-of-the-art scale-up process development/aseptic filling facility. No additional fee is required!

I encourage you to reserve your seat today for this conference and the tour. For more information and to register, visit www.pda.org/clinicaltrials.

I look forward to seeing you in November!