



# FIRST NATIONAL BIOSAFETY CONFERENCE



**GODFERY OKOYE UNIVERSITY,  
THINKERS CORNER , ENUGU  
ENUGU STATE**

**THE ROLE OF A FUNCTIONAL  
INSTITUTIONAL BIOSAFETY  
COMMITTEE**

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# INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENT

**NBMA** – National Biosafety Management Agency is the National Focal Point on Biosafety issues in Nigeria

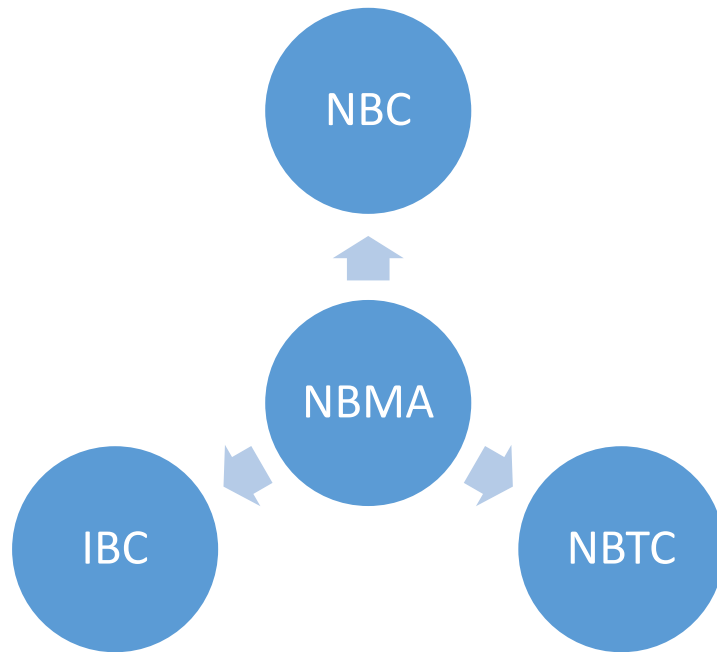
**NBC** – National Biosafety Committee

**NBTC** – National Biosafety Technical Committee

**IBC** – Institutional Biosafety Committee

**All answerable to NBMA**

WHERE IS THE POSITION OF GOVERNING BOARD?



# LITTLE THINGS THAT RUN THE WORLD



THE ROYAL ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY'S

NATIONAL  
**insect**  
WEEK

**23**  
to  
**29**  
JUNE  
2014

# PROTECT THESE LITTLE THINGS/FOOD CHAIN

Little boy's 'discovery'



British Natural History Museum's collections



# ESTABLISHMENT OF INSTITUTIONAL BIOSAFETY COMMITTEE (IBC)

- It is a requirement that:
- All relevant institutions in Nigeria, both private and public, including:
  - Research Institutes,
  - Universities and Polytechnics,
  - International Research Centers,
  - Industrial Research and Development),shall each establish an Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC)

# FUNCTIONS OF IBC

- To Serve as the liaison between the institution/research team and the NBMA/NBC
  - The IBC serves as the channel for information or any records that needs to be submitted to the NBMA;
- Enforce all guidelines issued by the NBMA at the institutional level;
- Review applications from Principal Investigators (PIs);
- Facilitate the preparation of dossiers for submission to the NBMA;
- Create and maintain central reference file and library of catalogues, books, articles, newsletters and other correspondences,

# FUNCTIONS OF IBC CONT'D

- Ensure:
  - availability of safety equipment,
  - biological containment of various host-vector systems,
  - Suitable and adequate staff training,
  - up to date data on the potential bio-hazards associated with certain technologies;
- Facilitate exchange of scientific, technical, environmental and legal information on, and share experiences with development and management of GMOs and other products of modern biotechnology;
- Develop a Safety and Standard Operating Manual as a guide for PIs;

## FUNCTIONS OF IBC CONT'D

- Certify the safety of facilities, procedures and practices;
- Evaluate and approve, on behalf of the NBMA, low and medium risk containment lab work
- Monitor the regulated work under progress within the institution and advise the proponents on issues of biosafety
- Maintain a list of PIs, project supervisors approved by IBC as competent to perform supervisory duties for particular projects;



# FUNCTIONS OF IBC CONT'D

- Keep records and maintain files of each research project;
- Report infractions to the institutional CEO? and recommend appropriate action to be taken by the relevant authority, including:
  - discontinuation of GM work where the existing circumstances pose a threat to the public, the environment or to lab personnel;

## FUNCTIONS OF IBC CONT'D

- Determine additional biosafety measures and develop supplementary institutional laboratory operating measures to address the specific risks and concerns uncovered.
- Assist researchers in undertaking risk assessment and organizing training programs

# COMPOSITION OF IBC

- Five (5) members are usually appointed from within the particular institution, including the Biosafety Officer (IBO);
- Two (2) other members not affiliated with the institution, but representing the interest of the community such as:
  - Members of government's public health or environmental agencies;
  - Persons active in human, plant, or animal health protection;
  - Persons or NGOs active in environmental concerns

## COMPOSITION OF IBC CONT'D

- Institutions with inadequate personnel for a stand-alone IBC may:
  - request another IBC to help monitor and supervise the biosafety aspects of their work and may enter into an agreement to that effect
  - separate institutions can come together to form an IBC that oversees their work

# BIOSAFETY OFFICER

- Institutions shall appoint a Biosafety Officer from among the IBC, who shall be an individual familiar with biosafety requirements for rDNA technology research work;
- The officer shall undertake checks and provide advice on biosafety issues on a day-to-day basis;
- Ensure that biosafety is not compromised by any other consideration;
- Provide reports, which should be part of the IBC's annual report to NMBA

# FUNCTIONAL IBCs

WHAT FACTORS CAN AFFECT THE EFFECTIVENESS  
AND FUNCTIONALITY OF IBCs?

# FUNCTIONAL IBC: CONSTITUTING AN IBC!

- Think of:
  - available human resources;
  - technical capabilities;
  - financial resources to support the functioning of the IBC;
  - Political-will to allocate resources

# FUNCTIONAL IBC: CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

- ON THE PART OF IBC MEMBER(S)
  - IBC member being principal investigator (PI) of a research project being evaluated;
  - having financial or administrative interest in a sponsor or product being evaluated in the research;
  - having relationship with an investigator(s) or one who has a financial or administrative interest in a sponsoring entity or product being evaluated in the research;
  - having personal conflict with the project which may lead to biased decision.



# OTHER FACTORS THAT IMPEDE EFFECTIVENESS

- Non-involvement of IBCs in the design of research facilities and acquisition;
- Inclusion of the head of institution in IBC membership;
- Limitation of the obligations of biosafety officer to the national competent authority;
- Lack of reward system to IBC members by institutions;
- Minimal interactions with NBMA/NBC
- Loose or non adherence to Guidelines

# FUNCTIONAL IBC

- For IBC to be functional, it must:
  - Be well constituted and adequately composed;
  - Receive the recognition and support of the institution that sets it up;
  - Be exposed to regular training and skills acquisition programs;
  - Be involved in the institutional projects designs/project evaluation;
  - Have resource/financial allocation for smooth operation;
  - Have regular interaction with NBMA and free flow of information;
- Finally, the IBO must be given free hand to perform his/her duties without restriction, and;
- there should be a way of rewarding hard work within the system

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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