

Staff Meeting Updates

Biotechnology Course

27 people attended the course.

Feedback indicated that:

- The lab hands on sessions were worthwhile.
- Some of the technical jargon used was not explained thus creating confusion.
- Some felt that parts were not relevant enough to them but enjoyed the experience overall.
- By the end of the day, participants were comfortably using words like promoters and restriction enzymes (although some were not exactly sure what an enzyme is).

The course was followed by a dinner in which industry representatives attended and participated in a question and answer session. This was enjoyed however the restaurant environment was very noisy and did not encourage many discussions across the room.

IP Course

30 people attended the course.

The course covered an introduction to IP, what different types of IP existed (copyright, PBR, patents) and what is involved in securing IP (costs, and duration). Several case studies were presented to the participants as examples.

After lunch a case study of two CRDC real proposals (Qing Liu Genetically modified oilseed and Robert Mensah IPM) were conducted and the participants were subdivided into 4 groups. Each group was asked the simple question should we fund this project. The groups were provided with an IP checklist to compare to the application and see if sufficient information was provided.

This exercise highlighted the fact that our application forms clearly do not address the areas required for IP assessment and management. This will be amended in the next few weeks and the annual application forms revamped so that some of the required IP information needed is added to them. This will be a temporary measure until CRDC's overall position on IP is revisited post the November Board meeting. Collecting this information now with upcoming projects will help to assist the project management team develop and maintain their IP Register and assist in the March Board meeting decision making process. The post graduate applications that are successful will be addressed after the November board meeting.

OHS Audit

Audit results have been received. A full copy of the report can be located in the OHS section in reception. Please return this copy when you have finished with this as this is the only distribution copy for CRDC.

Areas that need addressing are mainly paper management areas and policy development.

Jodi McLean

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