

Practical Aspects of Establishing a New Research Project Involving Transgenic Plants at an Off-Campus Research Center. (A07-pearson115832-Oral)

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Abstract:

There are numerous aspects to address when establishing a new research project that involves transgenic plants at an off-campus research center. Included in these aspects are: 1) Technical, 2) Research management and coordination, 3) Regulatory and compliance, 4) Media and public relations, 5) Security, and 5) Environmental considerations. Many of these aspects would also be encountered when a similar project was established on campus, while others may not. Communicating and interacting with the Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) was found to be particularly challenging. Part of this difficulty may have been due to the intrinsic structure and function of the IBC. The distance factor of having more than 483 km (300 mi) between campus and the off-campus center has also created challenges. Another perceived challenge by the principal investigator (PI) has been achieving scientific credibility with the IBC, given the scientist is not located on campus and does not have an ongoing campus presence. Many of the problems encountered in the process of establishing this new project have been overcome by identifying and communicating with the appropriate people, being patient yet persistent, and by providing lots of educational information about the center, the PI, the new research project, the objectives of the research, the research protocols, and the planned outcomes and deliverables.

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