

Report from the AllerGen Policy, Ethics, Law and Society (PELS) Advisory Committee of the RMC

Dr. Susan Elliott, Co-Chair

AllerGen Research Management
Committee (RMC)

Professor, School of Geography and Earth Sciences,
McMaster University

Tuesday, February 17, 2009



Knowledge and Technology Exchange and Exploitation

NCE Goal:

Mobilize Canada's research talent in the academic, private and public sectors and apply it to the task of developing the economy and improving the quality of life of Canadians, leading to sustainable job creation and economic growth, improved quality of life, and advancement of knowledge.

AllerGen's Goal

To catalyze and facilitate the development of new:

- Research platforms
- Tools
- Processes
- Products and services

arising from discoveries, and promote their commercialization, **their use and their influence on public policy**

KTEE Gaps

- Network's social science/policy research programme took time to develop and coalesce
- However, Social Sciences and Humanities projects supported to date are leveraging partner funding and showing significant potential in areas related to prevalence, food labeling, psychosocial impacts, on-line tools, and occupational asthma

Establishing the Committee

- The need for a PELS committee was identified by the Board of Directors and RMC at the December 2007 strategic planning retreat.
- Establishment of this Committee will fill a gap for an *active* support process
- Building bridges between researchers and policy/decision-makers in Canada.

AllerGen Policy, Ethics, Law and Society (PELS) Advisory Committee of the RMC

To advise and support the RMC in its:

- Facilitation of translation of AllerGen research with **policy, ethical, legal and/or social implications**;
- **Identification** of emerging PEELS issues that warrant a **policy response** from the Canadian allergic and immune disease research community, drawing on AllerGen's unique interdisciplinary expertise

Mandate cont.

- Build **sustainable links** between AllerGen researchers and Canadian policymakers.
 - To achieve this mandate, the PELS Committee will promote the use a variety of tools, including workshops, policy papers, consensus meetings and the commissioning of research.
- With the **promotion of the public good** as an overarching principle, the PELS Committee will seek to ensure that its activities are informed by the **best available evidence**.

PELS Composition

Up to **12** voting members including at least one:

- RMC Member
- Network investigator
- Allergan Board Member
- Policy maker
- Knowledge exchange/knowledge translation expert
- Members with not-for-profit organization perspective
- Clinician
- Allergan's Managing Director shall be an *ex-officio* member.

Committee Members appointed as **individuals** and not representatives of their employing organizations

PELS Membership

- **Susan Elliott**, Professor, School of Geography and Earth Sciences, McMaster University
- **Timothy Caulfield**, Research Director, Health Law Institute, University of Alberta, Faculty of Law
- **Elinor Wilson**, President and CEO Assisted Human Reproduction Canada
- **Diane Lougheed**, Associate Professor, Department of Medicine, Queens University
- **Lisa Cicutto**, Associate Professor, Faculty of Medicine, Division of Respirology, University of Toronto
- **Samuel Godefroy**, Director Health Canada Bureau of Chemical Safety
- **Mark Raizenne**, Director General, Public Health Agency of Canada
- **Alina Gildiner**, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, McMaster University
- **Christine Hampson**, President and CEO, The Asthma Society of Canada
- **Anthony Levinson**, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Neurosciences McMaster University
- **Diana Royce**, Managing Director & COO, AllerGen, *ex officio*

PELS Priority Initiatives Proposed 2009-10

- 1. “Annual” Ethics workshop**
- 2. KT tool kit development project**
- 3. Research in the home: Ethical Challenges and recommendations-
Interdisciplinary workshop**
- 4. Content analysis of media portrayal
of peanut allergy**

Burlington man used peanut oil to assault allergic ex-fiancée, Halton police say

Posted: January 23, 2009, 2:39 PM by Rob Roberts

A Burlington man has been charged with assault using peanut oil he allegedly smeared on a car door handle to make his allergic former fiancée ill, police said today.

The 49-year-old woman became sick after touching her car door handle and was treated for an allergic reaction to nuts at a nearby medical clinic, Halton Regional Police said.

She suffered no serious lasting effects.

“It is an unusual case, but it’s also very serious because the victim could have had an allergy attack while driving and gotten into an accident,” Sergeant Brian Carr told AFP.

The 47-year-old man, whose identity has not been released to protect the victim, has been charged with harassment and administering a noxious substance.



AllerGen

Allergy, Genes and Environment Network
Le réseau des allergies, des gènes et de l'environnement