Birkbeck UNIVERSITY OF LONDON **Health and Safety Services**

COSHH/Lab-work Risk Assessment Form

N.B. All risk assessments - including GM forms - must be reviewed at least once per year to ensure they are up-to-date. For example - check for changes in personnel, method, materials, lab and risk levels.

I, the UNDERSIGNED, have identified the health and safety hazards and have assessed the levels of risk to persons and property which might arise from the (tick relevant box/es) :

Research Project | X	P.G. Student Project |	Taught Practical Course |	Work Assignment |

entitled (block capitals)...Growth and maintenance of *E. coli* cultures on solid and liquid cultures.....

The work involves : (in bold)

A. Laboratory hazards not in categories B-E below and not requiring controls or precautions beyond the requirements of the general departmental/school safety codes of practice that will be issued to relevant workers/students and adhered to.

B. Biological substances hazardous to health - i.e. viruses, micro-organisms, GM material etc above bio-hazard group 1.

C. Chemical substances hazardous to health - i.e. known or suspected irritants, toxins, carcinogens plus highly flammables and explosives.

D. Physical hazards to health - i.e. ionizing radiation, high voltage equipment, noise >80dB(A), ultrasonics, lasers and other non-ionising radiations.

E. Environmental or other hazard stated here:
.....

If the work is in **category A.** above - state **OVERLEAF** the titles of the school/dept. safety code that covers the work involved and that will be issued to relevant workers/students.

If the work is in **categories B-E** above - state **OVERLEAF** your full assessment of the risks involved and the particular codes of practice and/or control measures that will be taken to protect persons and property beyond those specified in a general departmental/school safety code of practice.

Note: If **HEALTH SURVEILLANCE** is required e.g. work with allergens, certain chemicals or involving expectant or breastfeeding mothers, the names of the relevant workers must be notified to the College Health and Safety Officer who will initiate the procedure for pre-employment, commencement of project and annual follow up questionnaires.

DECLARATION: I (member of staff overseeing the work) ……Dr. Vitor B. Pinheiro…… confirm that all who will be involved in the work are listed overleaf and have read and understood this assessment.

SIGNATURE: ..... **DATE**: .....

HAZARD CATEGORY A:

All work must be carried out according the Code of Practice for Safe Working in the Malet Street Main Building (http://www.bbk.ac.uk/biology/our-research/safety/BIOL_Safety.doc)

Media preparation, which requires autoclavation, is a significant hazard. It can only be carried out when being supervised directly by the local lab manager.

HAZARD CATEGORIES B-E

IDENTIFY

- Antibiotics (ampicillin, chloramphenicol, kanamycin) are toxic. In particular, chloramphenicol is known to cause severe illness in a small but significant fraction of the population (~5%) – mechanism not understood.
- Desinfectants are toxic and active component may be volatile (e.g. chlorine).
- Contamination of liquid and solid culture media can lead to the unintended growth of environmental organisms (or more likely human flora). These could include level 2 organisms and must be treated as such.

CONTROL

- Standard personal protection equipment (lab coats and gloves) is required at all times when carrying out lab work. Killing of bacterial cultures with liquid or solid disinfectant also require eye and face protection.
- No liquid cultures larger than 100 mL should be carried out.
- Work areas should be cleaned before and after any cultures/passages are carried out
- Safe disposal of any plasticware that have come in contact with antibiotics or bacterial cultures.
- Liquid cultures must be sterilized with disinfectant before disposal. Solid cultures should be contained (e.g. plates wrapped in cling film) and disposed by autoclavation.
- Contaminated media should be disposed as soon as possible after disinfection.

INFORM

- All people associated with this project will read the Safety code of practice
- All people will be inducted in local safety arrangements by the local lab manager
- Senior members of the project (with more than 2 years lab experience) will train and supervise junior members to ensure project is being carried out safely
- All members of the project will adhere to standard operating procedures

MONITOR
No health surveillance is required.
Safe working practices will be monitored by Dr. Vitor Pinheiro, through regular spot checks.

REVIEW
Remember to review this assessment at least annually and more often if there is a material change to the work which may affect this risk assessment. See top of front page.

Employees/P.G. students/workers/others involved with the work

Name	Status	Initialled as seen & understood	Date
Ms. Luba Prout			
Ms. Barbara Steijl			
Mr. Pedro Tizei			
Ms. Yan Kay Ho			
Mr. Wayne Pires			
Mr. Tim Walker			
Mr. Sean Craig			
Ms. Ariana Mirzarafie-Ahi			
Ms. Rachel Wellman			
Mr. Shapoor Mohamadi			
Mr. Mervyn Richardson			
Mr. Elliot Parris			
Dr. Vitor B. Pinheiro			

Keep this form where it can be conveniently referred to by workers/students or inspectors. A copy also requires to be retained centrally for 40 YEARS!