

Institutional Biosafety Committee - Regular Meeting

Thursday, February 05, 2026

Zoom

Meeting Minutes

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:	S. Apewokin, G. Babcock, K. Burns, J. Corcoran, G. Dean, D. Elsaesser, M. Espinola, S. Kasper, R. Larson, E. Serafin, T. Rausch, F. Schaefer, J. Yu
VOTING MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:	E. Otten
AD HOC MEMBERS/CONSULTANTS/GUESTS:	T. Gulley, A. Perry, J. Strasser
IBC STAFF:	D. Healy, B. Kesavalu

K. Burns convened the meeting at 12:00 p.m.

- I. **Conflicts of Interest** - No conflicts were identified.
- II. **Minutes** - Minutes from the previous IBC meeting (01/08/25) were approved (11: YES/0: NO/0: Abstained)
- III. **Old Business** – No old business to discuss

D. Elsaesser joined the meeting

IV. New Business

A. Primary Protocols (1 protocol)

IBC Protocol Number	PI's Link	Type of Submission	Biosafety Level	IBC Items
1. 25-03-09-01	Odaka	Amendment	BSL1	<i>in vitro</i> : recombinant <i>Naegleria gruberi</i> , <i>Escherichia coli</i> (RG1 DH5a), recombinant DNA project (BSL1) AMENDMENT: <i>in vitro</i> : Giant viruses and <i>Acanthamoeba terricola</i>
IBC Requests:	<p><u>Main Form – General Safety:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Section II. B - Project 2 - Remove the words "new project"; Section II. B - Include a statement that due to the risk of opportunistic infection, immunocompromised personnel won't be assigned to projects involving biological agents; Section III. A - Indicate if other equipment (i.e. sonicator, vortex) are used while working with amoeba and virus; Section III. C - Additional Information - Remove information about face shield since its use is not related to protection against biological hazardous materials. <p><u>Form A – Recombinant or Synthetic Nucleic Acid:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> In the Microbial Agent form (Form B), the use of CRISPR/Cas9 system in amoeba is mentioned. Include Cas9 gene in this section. Also, make another entry for giant viruses' genes and fill in the fields using the information that is currently available to you. If information is yet to be determined, then so indicate. <p><u>Form B – Microbial/Infectious Agents</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Agent #4 - Name - Modify field to read: <i>Acanthamoeba terricola</i> (formerly classified as <i>A. castellanii</i>). 			
Motion	Approve upon modifications addressing outlined issues.			

Voting Result & Dual Use	YES: 12	NO: 0	Abstained: 0	Dual Use? No
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B. Secondary Protocols (7 protocols)

IBC Protocol Number	PI's Link	Type of Submission	Biosafety Level	IBC Items
1. 26-01-14-02	Ananthapadmanabhan	New	BSL2	<i>in vitro</i> : HDM (cadaveric tissues)
IBC Requests:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> PI has to complete his BBP training; <u>Main Form – General Safety:</u> Section I. A and I. B. - Enter the UC Mail code; Section II. B - Provide the meaning for "DSA" and "FTIR"; Section III. A - Include additional aerosol mitigation procedures for pipettes; consult the eManual (link provided on the top of this section); Section III. A - Will you be using a centrifuge and/or vortex for samples containing human skin? If so, include them along with specific aerosol mitigation procedures; Section III. B - In "Additional Information", indicate what type of scalpel safety devices (e.g., retractable scalpels) are used and what type of sharps are disposed of in sharps containers; Section III. C - In "Additional Information", explain when, face (surgical) masks and safety goggles are used; Section VIII - This section is reserved for materials that are not being used in ongoing or near-future planned research. Revise the section if necessary. 			
Motion	Approve upon modifications addressing outlined issues.			
Voting Result & Dual Use	YES: 12	NO: 0	Abstained: 0	Dual Use? No

IBC Protocol Number	PI's Link	Type of Submission	Biosafety Level	IBC Items
2. 26-01-14-01	Winnick	Renewal	BSL2	<i>in vitro</i> : HDM (plasma)
IBC Requests:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Lab staff must complete their BBP training; <u>Main Form – General Safety:</u> Section I. C – Provide phone number for all listed personnel; Section I. D - Complete fields for location in RC building D; Section II. A - In Form C, you mention about radioimmune assays. If radioactive materials are used with human cells, the box for RAM (5th row) needs to be checked and Form E needs to be reviewed and submitted; Section III. A - Is any additional lab equipment used (e.g.. vortex, sonicator) while working with human blood/plasma? If so, select them; Section III. B - Check YES for "Additional Information" and list type of sharps that are disposed of in the sharps containers; Section III. C - The information provided in "Additional Information" is unrelated to this section, so remove it. 			

	Form C – Human and NHP Derived Materials:			
	8. Section I - Table - Indicate from where human samples are obtained;			
	9. Section I. A - One of the IRB protocols listed could not be found. Review list for accuracy.			
Motion	Approve upon modifications addressing outlined issues.			
Voting Result & Dual Use	YES: 12	NO: 0	Abstained: 0	Dual Use? No

IBC Protocol Number	PI's Link	Type of Submission	Biosafety Level	IBC Items
3. 26-01-16-01	Srivastava	Renewal	BSL2	<i>in vitro</i> : lentiviral vector, HDM (blood, blood cells, bone marrow)
IBC Requests:	1. Lab staff need to complete their viral vector and BSC trainings; Main Form – General Safety: 2. Section III. C - Check YES for "Additional Information" and indicate when double gloves are used; 3. Section I. D - Change "QC resting" to "QC testing". Form A – Recombinant or Synthetic Nucleic Acid: 4. Section II. B - System #2 - "Gene Expressed" should include CAR. Form C – Human and NHP Derived Materials: 5. Section I - Provide from where primary cells, blood and bone marrow are obtained (e.g., Hoxworth).			
Motion	Approve upon modifications addressing outlined issues.			
Voting Result & Dual Use	YES: 12	NO: 0	Abstained: 0	Dual Use? No

IBC Protocol Number	PI's Link	Type of Submission	Biosafety Level	IBC Items
4. 26-01-20-01	Starnes	Renewal	BSL2	<i>in vivo</i> : HDM (cell lines)
IBC Requests:	Main Form – General Safety: 1. Section II. B - Elaborate the research description, describing how the materials checked in Section II. A will be used; 2. Section III. C is related to PPE used to protect against biological hazardous materials. Since the use of mask and goggles is related to chemical hazard protection, uncheck boxes and remove information provided in this regard. Form C – Human and NHP Derived Materials: 3. Section I - Are any patient derived materials used? If so, check the boxes that apply and complete related fields.			
Motion	Approve upon modifications addressing outlined issues.			
Voting Result & Dual Use	YES: 12	NO: 0	Abstained: 0	Dual Use? No

IBC Protocol Number	PI's Link	Type of Submission	Biosafety Level	IBC Items
5. 26-01-21-01	Kovall	Renewal	BSL2	<i>in vitro</i> : <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> (wt and recombinant) and <i>Escherichia coli</i> (BL21 - large scale)
IBC Requests:	<p><u>Main Form – General Safety:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Section III. A - Centrifuge, Vortex and Pipet - Replace "hood" with "BSC". <p><u>Form B – Microbial/Infectious Agents</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Agent #1 - Agent's Characteristics - Replace "N/A" to include a brief description of the E. coli species such as morphology and pathogenicity; Agent #1 - Check YES for "Genetically Modified" and provide the list of proteins that are expressed by this system; Agent #2 - Agent's Characteristics - Include whether or not the antibiotic susceptibility profile for the PAO1 strain is known. 			
Motion	Approve upon modifications addressing outlined issues.			
Voting Result & Dual Use	YES: 12	NO: 0	Abstained: 0	Dual Use? No

G. Babcock joined the meeting at 12:15 pm.

IBC Protocol Number	PI's Link	Type of Submission	Biosafety Level	IBC Items	Reviewer
6. 26-01-13-01	Dion	Renewal	BSL2	<i>in vitro</i> : HDM (primary cells)	Full IBC
IBC Requests:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> PI has to complete his BBP training; <p><u>Main Form – General Safety:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Section III. A - Section I. B - If lab does not have a phone, enter "N/A"; Section III. A - Pipet - Replace "airosol" with "aerosol"; Section III. B - Replace "sharpes" with "sharps". <p><u>Form C – Human and NHP Derived Materials:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Section II. A - Replace "devises" with "devices". 				
Voting Result & Dual Use	YES: 13	NO: 0	Abstained: 0	Dual Use? No	

IBC Protocol Number	PI's Link	Type of Submission	Biosafety Level	IBC Items
7. 26-01-23-01	Wendell	Renewal	BSL2	<i>in vitro</i> : <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> , <i>Legionella pneumophila</i> , <i>Pichia pastoris</i> , <i>Escherichia coli</i> (RG1)
IBC Requests:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Lab staff need to complete BSC training; <p><u>Main Form – General Safety:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Section I. B - If Secondary Contact does not have an office nor a lab phone, enter "N/A"; Section I. C - Provide phone number for all listed personnel; 			

	<p>4. Section I.D. - Ensure that all locations listed have their corresponding function indicated. One location assigned as "storage" has a BSC. If that equipment is used "storage" is not a correct function for that space. Section needs to be revised accordingly;</p> <p>5. Section II. B - In this renewal version, we observed that dCas13 was removed from Form A (Section I - Gene #3). Revise this section accordingly.</p> <p>Form A – Recombinant or Synthetic Nucleic Acid:</p> <p>6. Section I - In this renewal version, you removed dCas13 from Gene #3. If you no longer work with that, your Main form (section II.B) needs to be revised accordingly;</p> <p>7. Section III - Check box #1 to reflect the use of recombinant <i>S. aureus</i>.</p> <p>Form B – Microbial/Infectious Agents</p> <p>8. Agents #2 and #3 - Genetically Modified - Indicate whether modification is made on your lab;</p> <p>9. Agent #2 - Characteristics - Include the antibiotic susceptibility and resistance profile for your <i>S. aureus</i> strain;</p> <p>10. Agent #2 - Check YES for <i>in vivo</i> and indicate the route(s) of administration into animals.</p>			
Motion	Approve upon modifications addressing outlined issues.			
Voting Result & Dual Use	YES: 12 <i>(One member did not vote)</i>	NO: 0	Abstained: 0	Dual Use? No

C. Other New Business (M. Espinola) - Cross-Sectional Research Study & IBC Registration

- Kotarsky, new PI in the Health Sciences Program, is planning to conduct a study restricted to blood collection (finger pricking), capillary tube and equipment chamber loading.
 - A motion was made to not require IBC registration for this type of lab activity:
 - [YES (5), NO (7), Abstained (1)]
 - BSO of will contact Dr. Kotarsky about IBC registration

V. Protocol Updates - December 23rd to January 29th (14 protocols)

1. IBC# 24-08-21-02 - PI: Wasylishen - Personnel
2. IBC# 25-10-21-01 - PI: McLeod - Personnel
3. IBC# 23-09-27-01 - PI: Steckl - Personnel
4. IBC# 24-09-18-01 - PI: Dodson - Personnel
5. IBC# 24-12-09-01 - PI: Deepe - Personnel
6. IBC# 24-06-18-01 - PI: Nayak - Location
7. IBC# 23-02-19-01 - PI: Martin - Personnel
8. IBC# 25-10-22-01 - PI: Ray - Personnel
9. IBC# 24-09-09-01 - PI: Sasaki - Personnel
10. IBC# 25-10-24-01 - PI: Joiner - Personnel
11. IBC# 25-03-19-01 - PI: Owens- Personnel
12. IBC# 23-12-19-01 - PI: Huang W- Personnel
13. IBC# 25-10-21-02 - PI: Strobba - BSL2 Amendment - *in vitro* HDM (Saliva) Project #6
14. IBC# 25-03-19-02 - PI: Plas - Personnel

V. Reports

IBC /BSO of (M. Espinola)

- **NIH/OSP listening session**
 - NIH/OSP listening session related to modernization and strengthening oversight for biosafety for region 3 was held January 15th, 2026.

- Among the participants, three biosafety professionals from Ohio who voiced their opinion and provided suggestions.
- Three additional sessions will be held.

- **Lab accident**
 - A needlestick accident was reported to the BSO of on 01/20/26.
 - BSO met virtually with the PI and the staff involved and determined that the incident was not reportable to NIH/OSP.
 - A Root Cause Analysis determined that transporting mouse blood from the animal facility to the laboratory in a needle and syringe constituted inappropriate secondary containment and created an unnecessary needlestick hazard. As a corrective action, all samples will now be transferred into an appropriate, sealed transport tube at the collection site immediately after blood draw, prior to being transported to the lab.
 - PI was reminded to notify immediately the BSO of all laboratory accidents, and near misses, involving biological materials to ensure prompt evaluation and follow up.

- **New Aerosol Control eManual**
 - BSO developed a new Aerosol Control eManual which link is available in the IBC REDCap form.
 - The manual provides specific guidance for each aerosol-producing equipment listed. For convenience, the system supports both digital access and printable versions.

VII. Educational Materials/Updates

- A. **Guidelines needed for the use of AI in the preparation or review of IRB, IBC, and IACUC applications**
Taylor and Francis Online, January 2026
- B. **A Goldilocks approach to centralization of high-risk pathogen research**; First Opinion, January 2026.

K. Burns adjourned the meeting at 12:41 p.m.

