

**West Virginia University
Institutional Biosafety Committee Meeting Minutes
January 2026**

DATE: 1/26/26

TIME: 3:00pm

LOCATION: BMRF 101 with a Zoom option

The January meeting of the West Virginia University Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) was called to order by Karen Martin at 3:00 PM. The meeting was open to the public with public notification on the university's IBC website.

MEETING ATTENDANCE

Committee members present at the meeting were (role/expertise noted, as applicable):

1. Karen Martin, IBC Chair
2. Matt Stinoski, Institutional Biosafety Officer
3. Josh Parenti, Associate Biosafety Officer
4. Notashia Baughman, Unaffiliated community member
5. Marcus Cervantes
6. Robert Gerbo
7. John Hando
8. Eric Jeppesen
9. Ivan Martinez
10. Dan Panaccione, Plant expert
11. Rebecca Jernigan, Animal Expert
12. Dylan Willis

Non-committee Members: NA

A majority of the committee was present; therefore, a quorum was established.

PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES REVIEW

Minutes for the prior (November 2025) meeting were provided to committee members to review before the January meeting occurred. The meeting minutes were accepted as written and approved by the committee.

Discussion: No discussion occurred during this committee meeting.

PROTOCOLS FOR REVIEW

Protocol # (New/Renewal/Amendment)	17-11-01 (renewal)
Protocol Title	Characterization of respiratory pathogens for development of therapeutics and vaccines

PI Name	Damron, Heath
Biohazards	<p><u>Recombinant nucleic acids</u> Type of genes: <i>Bordetella sp.</i>, <i>P. aeruginosa</i>, bacterial antigens. Type of vector: pHERD, transposons, plasmids Applicable NIH guidelines: III-D-1</p> <p><u>Human, animal, or plant pathogens:</u> <i>Bordetella pertussis</i>, <i>bronchiseptica</i>, <i>holmesii</i>, <i>parapertussis</i> (lab strains)</p> <p><u>BBP & OPIM:</u> Human sputum, HEK-blue, THP-1, HL-60</p> <p><u>Introduction into Animals</u> Species: mouse Material: <i>Bordetella</i>, <i>Pertussis</i>, <i>Adenylate cyclase toxin</i>, <i>P. aeruginosa strains</i></p>
Proposed Biosafety Level	BSL2
Reviewer Summary	<p>The lab will be growing cultures of respiratory bacterial pathogens (<i>B. pertussis</i>, <i>P. aeruginosa</i>) to better understand pathogenesis for development of vaccines and therapeutics. This will include risk group 2 cultures from <i>Bordetella</i> and <i>Pseudomonas</i> genus along with Pertussis sp. and adenylate cyclase toxins for use with human samples and cell lines. Additionally, research will utilize plasmids and mRNA's to develop vaccines and therapeutics to be tested in mouse and rat models.</p>

There was a motion to approve the amendment at BSL2, pending the IBC recommended revisions:

Page 1 -Please rename reference to all bacteria as Risk Group 2 bacteria, not BSL2 biohazardous.

Page 2 - Please update your Biosafety cabinet certification dates.

Page 8 (pathogen) - First sentence needs revised. Not sure what it means. Also, Occ Med/MCHD is recommending TDAP booster every 3 years. Dr. Huggins seeing huge increase in pertussis cases in vaccinated population.

Materials & Methods - Please rename reference to all bacteria as Risk Group 2 bacteria, not BSL2 biohazardous.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Protocol # (New/Renewal/Amendment)	17-12-01 (renewal)
Protocol Title	Signal Transduction and Cancer Biology
PI Name	Agazie, Yehenew
Biohazards	<p><u>Recombinant nucleic acids</u> Type of genes: PTPN11, ErbB1, ErbB2 Type of vector: Bacterial, retrovirus, lentivirus Applicable NIH guidelines: III-D-3, III-E</p> <p><u>Human, animal, or plant pathogens:</u> NA</p> <p><u>BBP & OPIM:</u> Breast cancer cells, pancreatic cancer cells, human derived tumor tissue</p> <p><u>Introduction into Animals</u> Species: Mouse Material: Breast and pancreatic cancer cell lines</p>
Proposed Biosafety Level	BSL2
Reviewer Summary	This renewal will continue to study signal transduction at molecular and cellular levels in normal cells and cancer cells to evaluate anti-cancer effects of experimental compounds and drugs in clinical use and exploration of potential new drug targets. It will utilize Lentivirus and Retrovirus vectors to express non-hazardous and oncogenes of interest in human cell lines. The cancer cell lines will subsequently be introduced into a mouse model for assessment of compounds. Cholera toxin will also be used to culture certain cell lines.

There was a motion to approve the amendment at BSL2, pending the IBC recommended revisions:

Page 2 - Please update your Biosafety cabinet certification dates

Research locations- ABSL2 rooms have moved. Please update with new rooms (contact OLAR for rooms). Add AMIF rooms

Page 3 - Please describe lab coat laundering. We require the use of a cleaner who utilizes Universal Precautions, such as Massulo's or Model.

Page 5 - please include additional information related to LV vector including generation, target genes, etc. (fill out table)

Page 6 (rDNA) - For exposure response, please add that the Biosafety Officer will be contacted in the event of an exposure.

Page 8 (BBP) - For exposure response, please add that the Biosafety Officer will be contacted in the event of an exposure.

Page 9 (animal) - For exposure response, please add that the Biosafety Officer will be contacted in the event of an exposure.

Page 10 (toxin) - For cholera toxin, what is being used? The whole toxin, A or B subunit?

What amount are you using? Need more specific than “very low”.

Add LD50 250ug/kg to the table

For exposure response, please state that if exposed, get a copy of the Infectious Agent Fact Sheet, go to the Emergency Department and contact the Biosafety Officer will be contacted in the event of an exposure. Occupational Medicine is recommending the cholera vaccine for all individuals working with cholera toxin.

Materials & Methods: Please state that BSL2+ precautions will be utilized for oncogenes including:

BSL2+ Precautions

Personal protective equipment:

- two pair of gloves, the top one is disposed of in biohazard waste
- eye protection
- lab coat
- disposable solid front lab overcoat

The motion was unanimously approved.

Protocol # (New/Renewal/Amendment)	23-07-01 (amendment)
Protocol Title	Signal Transduction and Cancer Biology
PI Name	Geldenhuys, Werner
Biohazards	<i>Recombinant nucleic acids</i> Type of genes: EGFP, CBG99luc, Ovalbumin Type of vector: Mammalian, lipid nanoparticles, lentivirus, EGFP Applicable NIH guidelines: III-D-4, III-E <i>Human, animal, or plant pathogens:</i> NA

	<p><u>BBP & OPIM:</u> NA</p> <p><u>Introduction into Animals</u> Species: Mouse Material: EGFP, CBG99luc, REH</p>
Proposed Biosafety Level	BSL2
Reviewer Summary	Amendment submitted to add mRNA LNP in mice. The goal is to evaluate the therapeutic potential of nanoparticles as a delivery mechanism for anti-leukemic agents and other synthetic nucleic acids to develop vaccine applications. Work will also utilize plasmids, LV and LNP's to tag cells for identification and delivery agents/mRNA into mice.

There was a motion to approve the amendment at BSL2, pending the IBC recommended revisions:

Page 2 - Biosafety Cabinet dates need updated

Page 3 - Please describe lab coat laundering. We require the use of a cleaner who utilizes Universal Precautions, such as Massulo's or Model.

Page 6 - For exposure response, please state that if exposed, get a copy of the Infectious Agent Fact Sheet, go to the Emergency Department and contact the Biosafety Officer will be contacted in the event of an exposure. On page 7- please indicate III-D-3

Page 8 - For exposure response, please state that if exposed, you will get a copy of the Infectious Agent Fact Sheet, go to the Emergency Department and contact the Biosafety Officer.

Materials & Methods - Reduce the amount of information related to biosafety. Add information about procedures for preparing, packing, and administering LNPs.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Protocol # (New/Renewal/Amendment)	26-01-01 (new)
Protocol Title	Development of Comprehensive Patient-Derived Organoid Models for Cancer Research.
PI Name	Githaka, John
Biohazards	<p><u>Recombinant nucleic acids</u> NA Applicable NIH guidelines: NA</p> <p><u>Human, animal, or plant pathogens:</u> NA</p>

	<u>BBP & OPIM:</u> human tumors, blood and cell lines <u>Introduction into Animals</u> NA
Proposed Biosafety Level	BSL2
Reviewer Summary	Will develop and maintain a comprehensive collection of patient derived organoids (PDO) models to advance cancer research

There was a motion to approve the amendment at BSL2, pending the IBC recommended revisions:

Page 5 - For exposure response, please state that if exposed, get a copy of the Infectious Agent Fact Sheet, go to the Emergency Department and contact the Biosafety Officer will be contacted in the event of an exposure.

If samples aren't screened for pathogens, state no.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Protocol # (New/Renewal/Amendment)	26-02-02 (new)
Protocol Title	WVU Molecular Medicine Lab
PI Name	Stoilov, Peter
Biohazards	<u>Recombinant nucleic acids</u> NA Applicable NIH guidelines: NA <u>Human, animal, or plant pathogens:</u> <u>BBP & OPIM:</u> human cell lines <u>Introduction into Animals</u> NA
Proposed Biosafety Level	BSL2
Reviewer Summary	Using established Rapid Development Lab, develop assays and other molecular medicine projects related to high-throughput assays including: sequencing libraries, nucleic acid extraction, PCR and RT-PCR, growth of pluripotent stem cells and teaching and research with students.

There was a motion to approve the amendment at BSL2, pending the IBC recommended revisions:

Page 3- labcoat laundering will occur using a cleaner who utilizes Universal Precautions

Page 5 (BBP) – Where getting cell lines? Purchase? Are they screened?

Biosafety Officer will be contacted in the event of an exposure.

Mat & Meth- will other types of human samples be used? Do you want to expand page 5 for other types of samples from humans (nasal, blood, etc)

The motion was unanimously approved.

APPROVAL FOR ADJOURNMENT

There was a motion to adjourn the meeting if there were no further items for discussion. The meeting was adjourned at 3:37 PM.