West Virginia University
Institutional Biosafety Committee Meeting Minutes
March 2026

DATE: 3/30/2026
TIME: 3:00pm
LOCATION: BMRF 101 with a Zoom option

The March meeting of the West Virginia University Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) was called to order at 3:00 PM. Dr. Martinez was acting as the committee chair to fill in for Karen Martin, who was out on leave. 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. Matt Stinoski, Institutional Biosafety Officer
2. Josh Parenti, Associate Biosafety Officer
3. Marcus Cervantes
4. Tara Cotroneo, Animal Expert
5. John Hando
6. Brian Huggins
7. Eric Jeppesen
8. Ivan Martinez, Acting Chair
9. Rebecca Jernigan, Animal Expert
10. Dylan Willis

Non-committee Members: Amy McCreary

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

Discussion:

There was no discussion during this meeting.

PROTOCOLS FOR REVIEW

Protocol # (New/Renewal/Amendment)	**22-10-01 (renewal)**
Protocol Title	**Synaptic Regulation in Health and Disease**
PI Name	**Bridi, Michelle**
Biohazards	***Recombinant nucleic acids*** **Type of genes:** Fluorescent Proteins, Light-activated channels, Activity sensors **Type of vector**: AAV (UNC and Addgene catalogues)

	Applicable NIH guidelines: III-D-3 ***Human, animal, or plant pathogens*:** NA ***BBP & OPIM*:** Blood samples (Human), Tissue samples (Human) ***Introduction into Animals*** **Species:** Mouse **Material:** Knock-out and stable germlines
Proposed Biosafety Level	BSL2
Reviewer Summary	This renewal will continue to evaluate the role of sleep in synaptic function under normal conditions as well as when affected by stroke, stress, or autism. It will utilize AAV in a mouse model along with biological toxins in mouse tissue, postmortem.

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

Page 2 - Location - Update to include BMRF rooms you're moving to. Add BSL for each room

Page 3 - Update lab coat laundering to "lab coats to be laundered by a service that utilizes Universal Precautions"

The motion was unanimously approved.

Protocol # (New/Renewal/Amendment)	**16-01-02 (renewal)**
Protocol Title	**Nitrate Supplementation and Arterial Health**
PI Name	**Chantler, Paul**
Biohazards	***Recombinant nucleic acids*** **Type of genes:** NA **Type of vector**: NA **Applicable NIH guidelines:** NA ***Human, animal, or plant pathogens*:** NA ***BBP & OPIM*:** Human blood ***Introduction into Animals***

	Species: NA **Material:** NA
Proposed Biosafety Level	BSL2
Reviewer Summary	This research will continue to evaluate the relationship between blood biomarkers and structural/functional changes to arteries and the heart after nitrate supplementation. The lab will collect human blood samples for processing and analysis.

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

Page 1 - Summary says "after the intervention" what is being done? I assume it's the nitrate supplementation, but please specify.

Page 2 - personnel need full names.

Location – Materials &Methods talks about analysis. Where is that occurring?

Page 3 - HSC doesn't have a lab coat cleaning service.

Page 5 - Screening shouldn't be NA. If samples are not screened, type "none".

Verify IRB number, appears incomplete.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Protocol # (New/Renewal/Amendment)	**20-09-03 (amendment)**
Protocol Title	**SARS-CoV-2 virus culture in BSL-2 laboratory for hACE2 mouse challenge studies**
PI Name	**Damron, Heath**
Biohazards	***Recombinant nucleic acids*** **Type of genes:** NA **Type of vector**: NA **Applicable NIH guidelines:** NA ***Human, animal, or plant pathogens*:** Coronaviridae / SARS-CoV-2 ***BBP & OPIM*:** NA ***Introduction into Animals***

	Species: Mouse **Material:** SARS-CoV-2
Proposed Biosafety Level	BSL2
Reviewer Summary	Amendment to relocate SARS-CoV-2 research to BSL2 space. Lab will culture the SARS-CoV-2 virus for use in a mouse model.

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

Page 1 - Protocol mentions a hamster model, but animal page does not.

Page 2 - BSC out of date, please update.

Page 3 - biohazard waste- solid waste in Stericycle box.

Animal carcasses - just check “dispose through OLAR” box.

Page 5 (pathogen) - PPE listed isn’t required for BSL2 work.

Materials & Methods - Expansion and handling of cultures done with BSL2+ controls:

1. The door to the lab will be kept closed while conducting all experimental procedures. All experiments will be carried out within our fully enclosed dedicated cell culture room. The door to the room is marked with a BSL2+ tag.

2. Two pairs of gloves will be worn when handling the virus. The outer pair will be discarded in the biohazard waste during procedures as necessary and afterwards when manipulations are complete.

3. Laboratory staff will wear a solid-front disposable lab coat during all manipulations.

4. All work will be conducted inside a class II biosafety cabinet.

5. Sealed centrifuge rotors or buckets will be opened, loaded and unloaded with samples inside the biosafety cabinet.

Anyone working on project is recommended to be up to date on COVID vaccines.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Protocol # (New/Renewal/Amendment)	**23-04-02 (renewal)**
Protocol Title	**Dietz Lab In-Vivo and In-Vitro.**
PI Name	**Dietz, Matt**

Biohazards	***Recombinant nucleic acids*** **Type of genes:** NA **Type of vector**: NA **Applicable NIH guidelines:** NA ***Human, animal, or plant pathogens*:** *S. aureus, MRSA, S. epidermidis, MRSE*, *S. agalactiae, E. faecalis* ***BBP & OPIM*:** Synovium tissue, bone, synovial fluid, blood ***Introduction into Animals*** **Species:** Rat **Material:** Bacteria and antibiotics
Proposed Biosafety Level	BSL2
Reviewer Summary	This renewal will cover all work related to prosthetic joint infection with the goal of identifying the progression of infection and treatments available to humans. It will utilize bacterial cultures of relevance, using human samples to create infection in a rat model.

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

Page 1 - Update protocol # 23-04-02 to renewal box.

Page 2 - Biosafety cabinet certification date needed.

Page 3 - Solid waste doesn't need to be autoclaved before Stericycle, put waste in box.

Page 5 (pathogen) - Need antibiotic susceptibility sheets for all resistant strains of bacteria.

For exposure response, please add that the Biosafety Officer will be contacted in the event of an exposure.

Page 6 (BBP) - If samples are not screened, put "none", not NA.

Page 7 (animal) - For exposure response, please add that the Biosafety Officer will be contacted in the event of an exposure.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Protocol # (New/Renewal/Amendment)	**20-08-03 (renewal)**

Protocol Title	**Mucosal IgA in Health and Disease**
PI Name	**Meenal, Elliot**
Biohazards	***Recombinant nucleic acids*** **Type of genes:** Coronavirus NSP, spike, nucleocapsid **Type of vector**: Expression vector (mammalian, bacterial) **Applicable NIH guidelines:** III-E ***Human, animal, or plant pathogens*:** Human coronavirus ***BBP & OPIM*:** Salvia, blood (human) ***Introduction into Animals*** **Species:** NA **Material:** NA
Proposed Biosafety Level	BSL2
Reviewer Summary	This renewal is combining the above-mentioned IBC along with 22-11-01 as both protocols contained similar research. It will continue to evaluate the role of mucosal antibody IgA in response to disease using SARS-CoV-2 infection as an example. It will utilize recombinant virus proteins and human coronavirus OC43 and IgA purified from human samples to determine the capacity of IgA to inhibit the virus.

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

Page 2 - Need BSC certification dates.

Page 3 - Will lab coats be laundered or are they disposable? If laundered, state they will be laundered by a cleaner that utilizes Universal precautions.

Page 6 (rDNA) - Need risk assessment for added.

Page 9 (BBP) - fill out table for sample screening. If samples aren't screened, put "none"

Materials & Methods - Trim down section. It only needs a summary of each procedure.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Protocol # (New/Renewal/Amendment)	**22-03-02 (renewal)**

Protocol Title	**Neuro/Immune Modulation of Myocardial Remodeling**
PI Name	**Levick, Scott**
Biohazards	***Recombinant nucleic acids*** **Type of genes:** Human induction genes **Type of vector**: Lentiviral **Applicable NIH guidelines:** III-D-3 ***Human, animal, or plant pathogens*:** NA ***BBP & OPIM*:** Primary peripheral blood mononuclear cells, Human cardiac fibroblasts, blood samples and heart tissue, human mast cells ***Introduction into Animals*** **Species:** Mouse **Material:** GMO/cells
Proposed Biosafety Level	BSL2
Reviewer Summary	This renewal will continue to explore the role of neuropeptides in regulating adverse myocardial remodeling and heart failure. The lab will utilize LV vectors to transduce human cells with non-hazardous genes for further use in mouse studies. It will also utilize human blood and tissue samples.

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

Page 2 - Biosafety cabinet certification date needs updated.

Materials & Methods - Remove all reference to GMO and change to transgenic.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Protocol # (New/Renewal/Amendment)	**15-08-04 (renewal)**
Protocol Title	**Symbiosis-driven Nutrient Transports: Central to Tsetse Fly Biology**
PI Name	**Rio, Rita**
Biohazards	***Recombinant nucleic acids*** **Type of genes:** Amino acid transporter **Type of vector**: Plasmid vector

	Applicable NIH guidelines: III-D-4, III-E ***Human, animal, or plant pathogens*:** NA ***BBP & OPIM*:** NA ***Introduction into Animals*** **Species:** Tsetse fly **Material:** dsRNA, cRNA
Proposed Biosafety Level	BSL2
Reviewer Summary	This renewal will evaluate how nutrients are exchanged between Tsetse fly and its microbiota. It will utilize plasmids to transfer non-hazardous genes into the Tsetse flies.

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

Page 2 - biosafety cabinet certification date needs updated.

Page 6 - Needs risk assessment added.

Page 9 (exotic animals) - Containment practices from Page 8 should be transferred here. Since permit doesn't allow any flies outside of the lab, what happens if there is a release? Does it need reported?

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 3:36 PM.