West Virginia University
Institutional Biosafety Committee Meeting Minutes
September 2025

DATE: 09/29/25
TIME: 3:00pm
LOCATION: BMRF 101 with a Zoom option

The September 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. Mariette Barbier
5. Notashia Baughman, Unaffiliated community member
6. Kathy Brundage
7. Robert Gerbo
8. Eric Jeppesen
9. Jeremy Larew, Unaffiliated community member
10. John Hando
11. Ivan Martinez
12. Dan Panaccione, Plant expert
13. Chris Waters
14. Rebecca Welch-Jernigan, Animal Expert
15. Dylan Willis

Non-committee Members: Veronica Cyphert, Amy McCreary, Julie O'Neal

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

***PREVIOUS MEETING* MINUTES REVIEW**

A copy of the August IBC minutes was emailed to committee members for review prior to the meeting. A motion was made to accept the minutes, as written. The minutes were unanimously approved.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Dr. Notashia Baughman was introduced as an unaffiliated community member joining the committee. The NIH streamed 'listening sessions' in response to the NIH rescinding the DURC/PePP guidelines in May 2025 and placed a moratorium on 'dangerous research', the committee discussed what impact this may have going forward for research being conducted at the university. The committee also discussed

current research and biosafety stakeholders, including regional ABSA chapters that help steer the NIH initiative to help modernize and strengthen biosafety oversight to the University.

PROTOCOLS FOR REVIEW

Protocol # (New/Renewal/Amendment)	**15-11-01 (renewal)**
Protocol Title	**Characterization of Pseudomonas aeruginosa pathogenesis or development of therapeutics and vaccines.**
PI Name	**Barbier, Mariette**
Biohazards	***Recombinant nucleic acids*** **Type of genes:** LuxCDABE, fluorescent proteins **Type of vector**: Plasmids/chromosomal insertion **Applicable NIH guidelines:** III-D-1, III-F ***Human, animal, or plant pathogens*:** *P. aeruginosa* ***BBP & OPIM*:** N/A ***Introduction into Animals*** **Species:** mouse **Material:** *P. aeruginosa*
Proposed Biosafety Level	BSL2
Reviewer Summary	This protocol will continue to evaluate the infectious process and *P. aeruginosa* gene expression in response to infection for the development of therapeutics and vaccines. The bacteria will be used in a mouse model.

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

Page 2- Biosafety cabinet certification dates need updated

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

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

What concerns/precautions are needed related to the toxin in produces. Please add any additional precautions needed above BSL2 to the risk assessment.
If strain is antibiotic resistant, add antibiotic susceptibility testing results. If not, uncheck.

Page 9 - It appears that human samples are no longer gathered. Uncheck human samples from page 4.

Page 10 (rDNA into animals) - 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)	**22-08-01 (renewal)**
Protocol Title	**Labeling of Bacteria with Fluorescent and Luminescent Markers**
PI Name	**Barbier, Mariette**
Biohazards	***Recombinant nucleic acids*** **Type of genes:** florescent and luminescence markers **Type of vector**: Plasmids **Applicable NIH guidelines:** III-D-1, III-F ***Human, animal, or plant pathogens*:** *K. pneumoniae, S. enterica, S. flexneri, S. marcescens, A. baumannii, B. cenocepacia, B. pertussis, B. bronchiseptica, E. faecium, E. cloacae* ***BBP & OPIM*:** N/A ***Introduction into Animals*** **Species:** N/A **Material:** N/A
Proposed Biosafety Level	BSL2
Reviewer Summary	This protocol will continue to create tagged bacteria cultures for future use (infection) in animal models. Plasmids will be utilized to tag bacteria with markers. It will utilize multiple RG2 isolates, including Klebsiella pneumoniae, Salmonella enterica, Shigella flexneri, Serratia marcescens, Acinetobacter baumannii, Burkholderia cenocepacia, Enterococcus faecium, Enterobacter cloacae, Bordetella pertussis, and Bordetella bronchiseptica.

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

Page 1 - Change reference of all BSL2 microorganisms to Risk Group 2 Microorganisms

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

Page 8 (pathogen) - For exposure response, please add that the Biosafety Officer will be contacted in the event of an exposure.
For all strains that are antibiotic resistant, please provide antibiotic susceptibility testing

Materials and Methods - Change reference of all BSL2 microorganisms to Risk Group 2 Microorganisms

The motion was unanimously approved.

Protocol # (New/Renewal/Amendment)	**25-09-01 (new)**
Protocol Title	**Sterilized but Not Sterile? Investigating Microbial Growth in Liquid Suspension from Autoclaved Teeth.**
PI Name	**Franko, Jennifer**
Biohazards	***Recombinant nucleic acids*** **Type of genes:** N/A **Type of vector**: N/A **Applicable NIH guidelines:** N/A ***Human, animal, or plant pathogens*:** N/A ***BBP & OPIM*:** N/A ***Introduction into Animals*** **Species:** N/A **Material:** N/A
Proposed Biosafety Level	BSL2
Reviewer Summary	This protocol will evaluate current practices in attempt to establish new procedures to store sterilized teeth. Currently, some students notice color change and odor production in their teeth samples, indicating that contamination has occurred. It will utilize human teeth samples and bacteria isolates grown from the stored teeth samples.

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

Page 2 - Add biosafety cabinet dates

Page 3 - Check safety glasses

Page 4 - Uncheck pathogen page

Page 6 (BBP) - Add teeth to sample type and fill out table.
For exposure response, please add that the Biosafety Officer will be contacted in the event of an exposure.

Materials & Methods - In 1st paragraph, 2nd sentence is incomplete, add “waste” to biohazardous.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Protocol # (New/Renewal/Amendment)	**22-07-01 (renewal)**
Protocol Title	**Engineering the Blood Brain Barrier**
PI Name	**Katt, Moriah**
Biohazards	***Recombinant nucleic acids*** **Type of genes:** Single chain variable fragments, lymphocyte receptor B, protein folding assistants, nanobody library **Type of vector**: plasmids **Applicable NIH guidelines:** III-E, III-F ***Human, animal, or plant pathogens*:** N/A ***BBP & OPIM*:** human derived samples and cell lines. ***Introduction into Animals*** **Species:** N/A **Material:** N/A
Proposed Biosafety Level	BSL2
Reviewer Summary	This renewal will continue to evaluate non-invasive delivery methods across the blood brain barrier to develop therapeutics for central nervous system (CNS) diseases. It will utilize expression plasmids to produce candidate proteins to be tested in human cell lines.

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

Page 1 - Remove statement about animal work that's coming later.

Page 3 - Specify whether disposable lab coats are being used or include laundering instructions.
Remove animal carcass disposal information.

Page 5 - Add "potential hazards" info-none/n/a, etc.

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

Page 7 - III-D-2 does not apply

Page 8 (BBP) - Table- Samples from patients should be Yes or N/A.
IRB- mark as N/A.
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)	**25-09-02 (new)**
Protocol Title	**MSC-CIITA/CD80/CD86 cellular immunotherapy for osteosarcoma**
PI Name	**Dae Joong, Kim**
Biohazards	***Recombinant nucleic acids*** **Type of genes:** antigen presentation **Type of vector**: Lentiviral vectors **Applicable NIH guidelines:** III-E, III-F ***Human, animal, or plant pathogens*:** N/A ***BBP & OPIM*:** N/A ***Introduction into Animals*** **Species: Mouse** **Material:** antigen presentation genes
Proposed Biosafety Level	BSL2
Reviewer Summary	This protocol aims to develop a novel mesenchymal stem cell-based immunotherapy for osteosarcoma. It will utilize lentiviral vectors to encode for genes of interest in murine cells.

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

Page 2 - Add vivarium room and flow cytometry room

Page 5 - In Description of Genes table, specify the use of construct, not just yes.

Page 6 (rDNA) - In risk assessment, don't say small exposure will be fine. You can say that it is low risk, or something along those lines.

Page 7 - Add III-D-3

Page 8 (animals) -add info for animal species

Materials & Methods - Remove some information, especially related to biosafety part- we don't inspect containment quarterly, have annual biosafety training. This section should be only summaries of procedures being performed in the project.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Protocol # (New/Renewal/Amendment)	**16-09-01 (renewal)**
Protocol Title	**Regulation of Coenzyme A**
PI Name	**Leonardi, Roberta**
Biohazards	***Recombinant nucleic acids*** **Type of genes:** Co-A regulation **Type of vector**: AAV and lentiviral vectors **Applicable NIH guidelines:** III-D-3, III-E ***Human, animal, or plant pathogens*:** N/A ***BBP & OPIM*:** De-Identified human tissue, human and mouse cell lines ***Introduction into Animals*** **Species:** Mouse **Material:** AAV, any genes involved in the regulation of CoA
Proposed Biosafety Level	BSL2
Reviewer Summary	The research goal is to determine the role of CoA-degrading enzymes in regulating intracellular Coenzyme-A (CoA) concentrations and to understand the physiological significance of this regulation. Researchers will use diabetic mice to determine significance of regulation.

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

Page 1 - Add IBC# to renewal

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

Page 6 (BBP) - 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)	**22-04-02 (renewal)**
Protocol Title	**Mitochondrial protein quality control in health and disease.**
PI Name	**Sundararajan, Venkatesh**
Biohazards	***Recombinant nucleic acids***

	Type of genes: LONP1, Ndufs4, Atg7, Ulk1 **Type of vector:** plasmid, adenovirus, AAV, Lentivirus **Applicable NIH guidelines:** III-E ***Human, animal, or plant pathogens*:** ***BBP & OPIM:*** HeLa (human derived), Human induced pluripotent stem cells, HEK 293T & AC16, blood samples (human) ***Introduction into Animals*** **Species:** Mouse **Material:** AAV carrying plasmids
Proposed Biosafety Level	BSL2
Reviewer Summary	This protocol will evaluate the effects of specific proteins on cardio-protection. It will utilize expression plasmids and AAV and lentiviral vectors in human cell culture to express non-hazardous genes. AAV will also be utilized to encode genes in a mouse model.

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

Page 2 - Update vivarium room and add biosafety cabinet certification date.

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

Transgenic mice which are purchased do not need to be included

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.

Material and Methods - State that AAV will be transported from your lab to the vivarium in secondary containment.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Protocol # (New/Renewal/Amendment)	**16-09-04 (Renewal)**
Protocol Title	**Role of cytokines in immune cell functions.**

PI Name	**Wan, Edwin**
Biohazards	***Recombinant nucleic acids*** **Type of genes:** Vegfr3 (murine) **Type of vector:** AAV **Applicable NIH guidelines:** III-D-3, III-E ***Human, animal, or plant pathogens*:** ***BBP & OPIM:*** Stool samples (human), Blood samples (human) ***Introduction into Animals*** **Species:** Mouse **Material:** Pertussis toxin
Proposed Biosafety Level	BSL2
Reviewer Summary	This protocol will evaluate the role of cytokines in neuroinflammation related to multiple sclerosis and strokes. It will utilize AAV, human stool and blood samples, pertussis toxin in a mouse model to gather data.

Page 2 – Animal housing rooms are not ABSL2.

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) - In ER, remove material and methods information.

For exposure response, please add that the Biosafety Officer will be contacted in the event of an exposure and the exposed will go to the Emergency Department with a copy of the lab's Infectious Agent Fact Sheet.

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 3:47 PM.