West Virginia University
Institutional Biosafety Committee Meeting Minutes
February 2026

DATE: 2/23/26
TIME: 3:00pm
LOCATION: BMRF 101 with a Zoom option

The February 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. Mariette Barbier
4. Notashia Baughman, Unaffiliated community member
5. Marcus Cervantes
6. Tara Cotroneo, Animal Expert
7. Brian Huggins
8. Eric Jeppesen
9. Jeremy Larew, Unaffiliated community member
10. Chris Waters
11. Rebecca Jernigan, Animal Expert
12. Dylan Willis

Non-committee Members: Amy McCreary

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

PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES REVIEW

Minutes for the prior (January) meeting were provided for committee members to review before the meeting occurred. Minutes were provided the same day at the IBC meeting; therefore, approval was tentative until the committee had time to review them. No revisions were requested by any committee members, therefore, the minutes were approved by the Biosafety Officer on 2/27/26.

Discussion:

There was no discussion during this meeting.

PROTOCOLS FOR REVIEW

Protocol # (New/Renewal/Amendment)	**22-06-01 (renewal) **Approved via Email****
Protocol Title	**Evaluation of Antimicrobial Activity of Three Endodontic Sealers Against *Streptococcus mutans* and *Enterococcus Faecalis* Using the Agar Diffusion Test.**
PI Name	**Cavendar, Michael**
Biohazards	***Recombinant nucleic acids*** **Type of genes:** NA **Type of vector**: NA **Applicable NIH guidelines:** NA ***Human, animal, or plant pathogens*:** *E. faecalis, S. mutans* ***BBP & OPIM*:** Blood samples (Human), Tissue samples (Human) ***Introduction into Animals*** **Species:** NA **Material:** NA
Proposed Biosafety Level	BSL2
Reviewer Summary	PI is studying root canal therapy in humans. The therapy relies heavily on the elimination of microbes and microbial products within the canal system. This study hypothesizes that bioceramic sealers exhibit greater antimicrobial activity compared to zinc oxide eugenol and resin-based sealers. Using the Agar Diffusion Test (ADT), three sealers will be evaluated against E. faecalis and S. mutans. It is expected that bioceramic sealers will demonstrate larger zones of inhibitions (ZOI) against E. faecalis and S. mutans when compared to the other sealers. This study will contribute to evidence-based selection of endodontic sealers by providers and enhance understanding of bioceramic sealer antimicrobial properties.

The protocol was reviewed by the committee via email, prior to the IBC meeting, with the below comment provided to the PI.

Recommended the PI be faculty and not a resident.

The protocol was unanimously approved at BSL2.

Protocol # (New/Renewal/Amendment)	**23-02-01 (renewal)**
Protocol Title	**Characterization of Attenuated *B. anthracis* strains for mRNA Vaccination Trial.**
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*:** *B. anthracis* ***BBP & OPIM*:** Edema toxin (*B. anthracis), Lethal toxin (*B. anthracis) ***Introduction into Animals*** **Species:** Mouse **Material:** Edema and Lethal toxin
Proposed Biosafety Level	BSL2
Reviewer Summary	This renewal will continue to characterize *Bacillus anthracis* (attenuated Sterne strain) for future development of mRNA vaccines. It will utilize bacterial cultures *in vitro* and *in vivo* mouse model.

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

Page 1 - Change all references of bacteria to Risk Group 2, not BSL2 bacteria.

Page 2 - Fill out personnel table completely for all users, detail who is processing samples.

For locations, change to HSCN, not MICB.

Page 3 - What other sharps will be used for necropsy, sample processing?

For lab coats, state that they will be laundered using a cleaner that utilizes Universal Precautions.

Page 7 (toxin) - are toxins being purified and used or naturally produced? If naturally produced, don't need to fill out this page. This is only for purified or purchased toxins. If so, uncheck box on page 4 also.

Materials & Methods – State that cultures will be manipulated in a biosafety cabinet.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Protocol # (New/Renewal/Amendment)	**17-09-05 (New Protocol)**
Protocol Title	**COG APEC14B1 – The Project EveryChild Protocol.**
PI Name	**Meyer, Ashley**
Biohazards	***Recombinant nucleic acids*** **Type of genes:** NA **Type of vector**: NA **Applicable NIH guidelines:** NA ***Human, animal, or plant pathogens*:** ***BBP & OPIM*:** Blood, bone marrow, CSF (human), Tumor or normal tissue (human) ***Introduction into Animals*** **Species:** NA **Material:** NA
Proposed Biosafety Level	BSL2
Reviewer Summary	This protocol covers the collection of human samples, mostly tumors as part of the Children's Oncology Group co-op for use in research at a COG site. Human samples will be sampled in clinics and processed in the Biospecimen core in the WVU CI.

There was discussion regarding the need for this IBC protocol if all of the samples are being processed through the BioTRAC core, which is covered under approved IBC #16-11-02. There was a motion to table the protocol until we can determine the need for a separate IBC protocol

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Protocol # (New/Renewal/Amendment)	**16-04-01 (renewal)**
Protocol Title	**Transcriptional and Post-Transcriptional Control Gene Expression.**
PI Name	**Stoilov, Peter**
Biohazards	***Recombinant nucleic acids*** **Type of genes:** Various natural and synthetic

	Type of vector: Various, self inactivating retro and lentiviral. Bacterial and yeast cloning and expression, AAV. **Applicable NIH guidelines:** III-D-3, III-E, III-F ***Human, animal, or plant pathogens*:** NA ***BBP & OPIM*:** Human derived cell lines ***Introduction into Animals*** **Species:** Mouse **Material:** rDNA, AAV
Proposed Biosafety Level	BSL2
Reviewer Summary	This protocol will continue to evaluate the regulation of gene expression related to retina development and causes of blinding disease. It will utilize LV, RV and AAV *in vitro and in vivo* to manipulate gene expression, some oncogenic.

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

Page 2 - Stoilov Hep B vaccine needed. Contact Occupational Medicine to set that up. (304) 293-3693.

Page 3 - Universal precautions for lab coat laundering.

Biohazard waste all through Stericycle, no in house autoclaving.

Page 5 (rDNA) - Gene Name should be at least description of types (protein expression, oncogene, etc).

What specific oncogene and toxin produced? For oncogenes, please provide specific names.

Page 6 - also III-E.

Page 8 -For cell lines, answer "no" or list what pathogens the samples are screened for.

Materials & Methods - risk group 2 bacteria, not BSL2.

For transfection through animal work, We don't need step by step procedures. Summarize but state which work will occur at BSL2+(oncogenes) and in a biosafety cabinet.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Protocol # (New/Renewal/Amendment)	**23-03-02 (new protocol)**
Protocol Title	**WV CoBRE Rodent Behavior and Experimental Stroke Core.**
PI Name	**Walton, James**
Biohazards	***Recombinant nucleic acids*** **Type of genes:** Fluorescent protein **Type of vector**: recombinant AAV **Applicable NIH guidelines:** III-D-3 ***Human, animal, or plant pathogens*:** ***BBP & OPIM*:** NA ***Introduction into Animals*** **Species:** Mouse **Material:** recombinant AAV vectors
Proposed Biosafety Level	BSL2
Reviewer Summary	This protocol will cover the work done by the CoBRE Rodent Behavior and Experimental Stroke Core. AAV will be used to deliver fluorescent protein to mice for visualization purposes during later experiments.

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

Page 2 - biosafety cabinet certification date needs updated.

Personnel tab - fill out table completely for each.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Protocol # (New/Renewal/Amendment)	**25-04-01 (amendment)**
Protocol Title	**Study of Bacterial Sepsis**
PI Name	**Barbier, Mariette**
Biohazards	***Recombinant nucleic acids*** **Type of genes:** Antibody light and heavy Chains, LL37

	Type of vector: Proprietary **Applicable NIH guidelines:** III-D-3, III-E ***Human, animal, or plant pathogens*:** NA ***BBP & OPIM*:** NA ***Introduction into Animals*** **Species:** Mouse **Material:** Antibody treatment
Proposed Biosafety Level	BSL2
Reviewer Summary	This amendment is to add mRNA encoding peptide for immunotherapy. It will be used to encode a broad-spectrum antimicrobial peptide LL37. This protocol was written to develop and establish an animal sepsis model to be used for the development and evaluation of antibody therapeutics in effort to combat infection caused by *S. aureus* and *E. coli*.

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

Page 2 - biosafety cabinet dates need updated.

Page 3 - Utilize a lab coat cleaner that utilizes Universal precautions.

Page 5 - III-E also applies.

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.