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

***DATE:*** 4/27/2026
***TIME:*** 3:00pm
***LOCATION:*** BMRF 101 with a Zoom option

The April meeting of the West Virginia University Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) was called to order at 3:02 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. Matt Stinoski, Institutional Biosafety Officer
2. Josh Parenti, Associate Biosafety Officer
3. Mariette Barbier
4. Kathy Brundage
5. Marcus Cervantes
6. Tara Cotroneo, Animal Expert
7. Robert Gerbo
8. John Hando
9. Eric Jeppesen
10. Karen Martin
11. Dan Panaccione
12. Chris Waters
13. Rebecca Jernigan, Animal Expert
14. Dylan Willis

Non-committee Members: Amy McCreary

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

**Minutes:** Minutes from March were approved as written.

**Discussion:**

1. Service dogs in the laboratory.

Dr. Rio in Biology has a student she'd like to have work at BSL2 and who has a service dog. Dr. Rio's research uses plasmids with non-hazardous genes in tsetse flies. The student will be doing bench work but not working with flies. The dog is required to wear goggles, boots, and a liquid-repellent coat. The student has all of that PPE for Oliver (the current service dog). Additionally, we are maintaining the requirement for Oliver to stay a few feet away from any active lab benches. Further, the dog is not allowed in any room that houses animals, including tsetse flies.

The BSO is writing an IBC policy stating that service dogs in labs will be handled on a case-by-case basis, via risk assessment.

2. Axolotl gamete transfection

A researcher asked about whether or not that creating transgenic axolotl gametes were permitted on campus for off campus breeding purposes. Transfection of axolotl (*Ambystoma mexicanum*) gametes with recombinant or synthetic nucleic acid molecules at the institution constitutes creation of germline recombinant material subject to the NIH Guidelines, and **appendix M applies at the point of genetic modification.** Appendix M requires institutional containment, confinement, and control sufficient to prevent dissemination of animals, or their genetic materials, through transfer or reproduction. Transferring transfected gametes or resulting organisms for **off-site breeding** breaks appendix M – compliant confinement and represents loss of institutional control; subsequent distribution on sale further falls outside of the NIH's contained-research framework. Accordingly, the IBC determined that **off-site** breeding and sale are not permitted absent explicit NIH approval and equivalent IBC oversight at the receiving site, and that all germline-modified material progeny must remain under IBC-approved containment or be rendered non-viable. The researcher decided to not further pursue this project.

***PROTOCOLS FOR REVIEW***

| | |
|---|---|
| **Protocol # (New/Renewal/Amendment)** | **19-04-01 (renewal)** |
| **Protocol Title** | **Impact of Neutrophil Extracellular Traps (NETs) in Cancer and Inflammation** |
| **PI Name** | **Boone, Brian** |
| **Biohazards** | ***Recombinant nucleic acids***<br>**Type of genes:** NA<br>**Type of vector**: NA<br>**Applicable NIH guidelines:** NA<br><br>***Human, animal, or plant pathogens*:** NA<br><br>***BBP & OPIM*:** Blood samples (Human), Tissue samples (Human)<br><br>***Introduction into Animals:***<br>**Species:** Mouse<br>**Material:** Diphtheria toxin |
| **Proposed Biosafety Level** | BSL2 |
| **Reviewer Summary** | Research aims to study the impact of neutrophil traps on the pathophysiology of cancer and inflammatory conditions. Better understanding these conditions allows for the development of improved targeted treatments in humans. |

| | |
|---|---|
| | Deidentified patient samples will be collected and analyzed and used for biomarker analysis to aid future studies. |

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

**Page 2** - Where will tumor cells and Diphtheria toxin be injected into mice? Add that to the location table.
Need BSC for toxin. Add biosafety cabinet certification date.

**Page 5** (BBP) - Typo in Risk Assessment, pertinent, not oertinent.

**Page 6** (animals) - Need to add tumor cells to this table

**Materials & Methods** - Describe where tumor cells and toxin will be injected into mice. If in OLAR, add room to page 2. Discuss where/how it will be handled/prepared/transported.

The motion was unanimously approved.

---

| | |
|---|---|
| **Protocol # (New/Renewal/Amendment)** | **24-04-01 (renewal)** |
| **Protocol Title** | **Use of Diphtheria Toxin to Deplete Cells in Transgenic Mice** |
| **PI Name** | **Coulibaly, Aminata** |
| **Biohazards** | ***Recombinant nucleic acids***<br>**Type of genes:** NA<br>**Type of vector**: NA<br>**Applicable NIH guidelines:** NA<br><br>***Human, animal, or plant pathogens*:** NA<br><br>***BBP & OPIM*:** NA<br><br>***Introduction into Animals:***<br>**Species:** Mouse<br>**Material:** Diphtheria toxin |
| **Proposed Biosafety Level** | BSL2 |
| **Reviewer Summary** | Research will continue to evaluate how the peripheral activity of neutrophils affect cognition and brain healing after injury. Diphtheria toxin will be used to deplete neutrophils in a mouse model. |

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

**Page 1** - Office location should be BMRC, not BRMC.

**Page 2** - Location- BMRC

BSC certification date needs updated

**Page 3** - No need for N95 or surgical mask

Disinfectant - need to use bleach for DT

**Page 6** (toxin) - change biosafety hood to biosafety cabinet

**Materials & Methods** - Bio hood to biosafety cabinet throughout.

Subset of tissue (of tissue) delete duplicate words.

State that mice will be restrained and/or anesthetized for injection.

The motion was unanimously approved.

---

| | |
|---|---|
| **Protocol # (New/Renewal/Amendment)** | **19-10-03 (renewal)** |
| **Protocol Title** | **Detection and Characterization of Pathogenic Bacteria in Environmental and Water/Wastewater Systems.** |
| **PI Name** | **Garner, Emily** |
| **Biohazards** | ***Recombinant nucleic acids***<br>**Type of genes:** NA<br>**Type of vector**: NA<br>**Applicable NIH guidelines:** NA<br><br>***Human, animal, or plant pathogens*:** *E. coli, P fluorescens migula, P. aeruginosa migula, L. pneumophilia*<br><br>***BBP & OPIM*:** Human wastewater<br><br>***Introduction into Animals:***<br>**Species:** NA<br>**Material:** NA |
| **Proposed Biosafety Level** | BSL2 |

| | |
|---|---|
| **Reviewer Summary** | Research will continue to evaluate methods to detect and characterize pathogenic bacteria in water systems for development of engineering strategies that mitigate pathogen persistence. It will utilize pathogenic bacteria cultures and human wastewater samples. |

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

**Page 2** - update BSC certification date.

**Page 3** - how will lab coats be laundered?

Biowaste - don't autoclave, just put in red bag.

**Page 5** (pathogen) - for antibiotic resistant strains, do you have susceptibility testing results or did you mark that because the species that is known to develop resistance? If former, please provide results, if latter, uncheck.

**Page 6** (human samples) - Remove IBC number from IRB. Mark N/A

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.

**Material & Methods** - Don't need to autoclave and dispose of through Stericycle. Place all waste in a Stericycle box.

How is PPE used for sample collection disposed of?

The motion was unanimously approved.

---

| | |
|---|---|
| **Protocol # (New/Renewal/Amendment)** | **22-10-01 (renewal)** |
| **Protocol Title** | **Using Human Biological Materials for DNA Analysis** |
| **PI Name** | **Iyengar, Arati** |
| **Biohazards** | ***Recombinant nucleic acids***<br>**Type of genes:** NA<br>**Type of vector**: NA<br><br>**Applicable NIH guidelines:** NA |

| | |
|---|---|
| | ***Human, animal, or plant pathogens*:** NA<br><br>***BBP & OPIM*:** Peripheral blood, semen, saliva, menstrual blood, buccal swabs, touch samples, vaginal swabs, hair.<br><br>***Introduction into Animals***<br>**Species:** NA<br>**Material:** NA |
| **Proposed Biosafety Level** | BSL2 |
| **Reviewer Summary** | This renewal will continue to evaluate and improve upon existing methodologies for DNA analysis. Multiple types of human samples will be utilized for this study. |

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

**Page 1** - remove "HBV vaccine is unnecessary" statement. Vaccine is recommended for working with human derived materials regardless of PPE usage.

Add 22-10-02 to Renewal box.

Remove information related to mushroom project. Unrelated and not covered by IBC.

Spell out what dept FIS is.

**Page 2** - add biosafety cabinet certification date.

Fill out all of personnel table.

**Page 4** - uncheck Biologically active agents.

**Page 5** (BBP) - are commercial purchased material screened for anything?

Fill out all columns for all samples.

**Page 6** - Remove mushroom info from this page.

The motion was unanimously approved.

---

| | |
|---|---|
| **Protocol # (New/Renewal/Amendment)** | **15-04-07 (renewal)** |
| **Protocol Title** | **Develop Effective Postharvest Sanitizing Procedures to Control Foodborne Pathogens, including Salmonella spp. and Listeria monocytogenes, During Fresh Produce Processing at Farmers' Markets** |

| | |
|---|---|
| **PI Name** | **Shen, Cangliang** |
| **Biohazards** | ***Recombinant nucleic acids***<br>**Type of genes:** NA<br>**Type of vector**: NA<br><br>**Applicable NIH guidelines:** NA<br><br>***Human, animal, or plant pathogens*:** *S. typhimurium, S. Newport, L. monocytogenes.*<br><br>***BBP & OPIM*:** NA<br><br>***Introduction into Animals***<br>**Species:** NA<br>**Material:** NA |
| **Proposed Biosafety Level** | BSL2 |
| **Reviewer Summary** | Lab will continue to evaluate procedures to improve produce safety from farmers markets and develop postharvest sanitizing strategies. It will utilize risk group Salmonella species for in-vitro assessment of disinfectant strategies. |

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

**Page 1** - Regarding pathogens, state that you'll "utilize" not "touch".

**Page 2** - Location: G60 listed in Material and Methods. It needs added to table if using it.

Room 2004 is listed as "use for" 2410. Separate rooms? If so, please add to table as separate room.

Update BSC certification date.

Personnel tab - fill out all columns.

**Page 3** - No need to autoclave waste first. Just put in box for Stericycle.

**Page 5** (pathogen) - In Risk Assessment, State symptoms for each pathogen. Regarding antibiotic resistance, if purchased from ATCC, you should be able to determine based on strain.

For Exposure Response, add that the Biosafety Officer will be contacted.

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.