Stowers Institutional Biosafety Committee

Meeting Minutes

Date: February 3, 2026
Time: 1:00pm – 1:45pm
Location: Microsoft TEAMS

Voting Members Present:

1) Timothy Corbin (Animal Expert)
2) Tonyea Inglis (IBC Chair, Biosafety Officer)
3) Charles German (Member)
4) Randal Halfmann (Lab Representative)
5) Carrie Lenahan (Community Member) – joined at 1:15pm
6) Shanna Seitz (Community Member)
7) Chongbei Zhao (Lab Representative)

Non-Voting Members Present:

1) Jeff Haug
2) Leanne Wiedemann (Human Protections Administrator)
3) Brandy Lewis
4) Lauren Benoist

Members Absent:

1) Doris Zhong (Occupational Health Representative)

1. **Introduction Comments:**
    a. **Call to Order:** The Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) Chair called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. The IBC has 8 voting members, and 5 members are required to conduct business. A quorum was present.
    b. **October Meeting Minutes:** The minutes of the October 27th meeting were included as a handout.
        Discussion of the minutes: The IBC Scientific Advisory Panel (SAP) has instituted a new procedure in which they will review the draft meeting minutes following the convened meeting during the next scheduled SAP meeting. All approved IBC meeting minutes that have occurred after June 2025 will now be posted on our outward-facing website. However, the older minutes will also be available if requested. B. Lewis noted that the BSL2 room inspections occur every 8 weeks, not 6 weeks as was included in the October minutes.
        Motion: approve the minutes as written.
        Votes: For: 6, Against: 0, Abstain: 0
    c. **Conflicts of Interest:** The IBC Chair reminded all members present that no member of an IBC may be involved (except to provide information requested by the Institutional Biosafety Committee) in the review or approval of a project in which he/she has been or expects to be engaged or has a direct financial interest. Committee members with a conflict of interest will be annotated in the "VOTES" section.

2. **Old Business:**

a. **Current IBC Registration List**: A list of current approved IBC Registrations has been included as a handout.
b. **Minor Amendments** (approved by Chair since last meeting):
    i. IBC-2003-24-pat (P. Trainor – BSL2 Cell transplantation and Virus Injection) – Added zebrafish embryos.
c. **Inactivated Registrations** (since last meeting):
    i. IBC-2004-08-rsh (S. Hawley/K. Si – Expressing recombinant proteins in BL21 strains of E. coli)
d. **Continuation of updates to Human Primate Cell Line (HPCL) registrations**:
    i. HPCL-025-jeg – added PPG00099 and PPG00525 cell lines.
e. **Update from Biosafety Officer (BSO)** –
    i. EH&S continues to conduct inspections of the BSL2 rooms every eight weeks. They are finding fewer issues in the common BSL2 rooms. No other updates.

3. **New IBC Registrations for Review/Approval** (handouts) vote

a. **IBC-2025-11-dst (D. Stern - Neurogenetic reagents to study Drosophila melanogaster brain evolution)**
Primary reviewer: J. Haug
Applicable NIH Guidelines: III-D-4
Biosafety Level: BSL1
Project Overview: This registration is for our new investigator Dr. Stern. It is very similar to other PI registrations for creating transgenic animals. They are interested in studying the courtship behaviors of drosophila, by understanding the genes and proteins that affect the neurological signals. They will be introducing DNA by several different methods.
Investigational Study Agent(s)/Toxin(s): Transgenic D. melanogaster
Committee Discussion: No questions or concerns.
Training Requirements: Basic lab safety training.
Motion: Approve as written.
Votes: For: 6
Against: 0
Abstain: 0

b. **IBC-2025-10-asa (A. Sanchez - Bat metabolism and functional genomics toolkit (BSL2 – Rabies Cleared))**
Primary reviewer: L. Wiedemann
Applicable NIH Guidelines: III-F-8
Biosafety Level: BSL2
Project Overview: This is a new registration that is related to two already approved registrations which are included in the revised section below. This new registration is to cover screened, rabies cleared primary cells that are being established from wild bat tissue samples in collaboration with the Cells, Tissue, and Organoids Center (CTOC). The wild bat tissues have the potential to be infected with rabies and other "zoonotic" viruses which may pose a risk to humans and currently must be handled following IBC-2021-02-asa in a special BSL2 room (aka the Bat Cave) by rabies

vaccinated individuals. However, this puts a burden on the restricted room and members who can work on them. To allow more members of CTOC to assist, the cell lines will be screened by a veterinary diagnostic lab using sensitive PCR testing to identify rabies negative lines. The rabies cleared lines can then be handled in a regular dedicated BSL2 room by non-vaccinated individuals that are approved on this registration's participant list. The rabies cleared lines will still be handled at BSL2 because there is still a risk of other viruses that could pose a risk to humans. Screened samples shown to be rabies negative will incorporate RC for "Rabies Cleared" as a part of the cell ID and be clearly labeled as such on the containers. The IBC SAP and the BSO will review the rabies cleared documentation prior to granting this designation. The main objective of these three related bat registrations is to understand how sugar metabolism varies between bat species. They will use an integrative, phylogenetically informed methodology to investigate how factors such as body size, dietary guild, and sugar type influence an animal's metabolism.
Investigational Study Agent(s)/Toxin(s): Bat cells
Committee Discussion: There was a question regarding the packaging of the materials for shipment to the veterinary diagnostic center. This will be handled by trained members of EH&S.
Training Requirements: BSL2 training.
Motion: Approve as written.
Votes: For: 7
Against: 0
Abstain: 0

4. **Amended IBC Registrations for Review/Approval** (handout) vote

    a. **IBC-2021-02-asa (A. Sanchez – Molecular tolerance to increased sugar consumption in bats (potentially infected BSL2, work in bat room 414b only))**
    Primary reviewer: L. Wiedemann
    Applicable NIH Guidelines: III-F-8 and III-D-1a
    Biosafety Level: BSL2
    Project Overview: We asked that the researcher review the two existing registrations to ensure they were up to date and congruent with the new bat registration (see above). The researcher had removed some sources that were no longer going to be used for these studies. The rabies screening procedures are now included in more detail on this registration. All work on this registration must be done in the BSL2 "bat cave" by rabies vaccinated individuals. Once the cells are processed and no longer pose any risk of rabies or other zoonotic viruses that could harm humans, they can be safely handled in conventional lab spaces.
    Investigational Study Agent(s)/Toxin(s): Bat tissues and cells
    Committee Discussion: Since this registration was previously approved, C. German wanted to understand why we had to vote on this again. Since there have been significant revisions, the IBC SAP decided that it should go back to the full committee for review and vote. If there were only minor changes, the IBC Chair can approve and it would be noted on the next meeting agenda.
    Training Requirements: BSL2 training.
    Motion: Approve as amended.
    Votes: For: 7

Against: 0
Abstain: 0

b. **IBC-2021-08-asa (A. Sanchez – Molecular tolerance to increased sugar consumption in bats (BSL1 - zoo materials))**
Primary reviewer: L. Wiedemann
Applicable NIH Guidelines: III-F-8
Biosafety Level: BSL1
Project Overview: This registration was revised to be congruent with the other two bat registrations. In particular, the researcher removed all mentions of wild type samples as they could not be assured that they would not harbor any zoonotic viruses of concern. Only screened zoo bat materials are included on this registration. The IBC SAP and BSO must review the zoo documentation before allowing any samples to be handled under this BSL1 registration. To date the researcher has not received any zoo samples, but she would like to keep this registration active.
Investigational Study Agent(s)/Toxin(s): Bat Cells
Committee Discussion: No concerns or questions.
Training Requirements: Basic lab safety training.
Motion: Approve as amended.
Votes: For: 7
Against: 0
Abstain: 0

c. **IBC-2019-05-arb (A. Bazzini – Virus infection and gene regulation- replication competent virus in human cells: Dengue fever (DENV), Yellow fever virus (vaccinal strain, YF-17D), West Nile Virus (WNV), and Zika virus (ZIKV))**
Primary reviewer: C. Zhao
Applicable NIH Guidelines: III-D-3-a
Biosafety Level: BSL2
Project Overview: This registration covers viral infections in human cell lines. They want to understand how the virus reshapes gene expression. There was no change in the scope of the project. This revision was adding single cell RNA sequencing.
Investigational Study Agent(s)/Toxin(s): Dengue Fever virus, Yellow Fever virus strain YF-17D, West Nile virus, and Zika virus.
Committee Discussion: No questions or concerns.
Training Requirements: BSL2 training.
Motion: Approve as amended.
Votes: For: 7
Against: 0
Abstain: 0

d. **IBC-2024-10-nha (N. Hall – Genetic manipulation of regenerative animals)**
Primary reviewer: C. Zhao
Applicable NIH Guidelines: III-D-4
Biosafety Level: BSL1

Project Overview: This registration was revised to add two new species of worms, along with single stranded DNA produced using non-infectious M13 bacteriophage system. The new Fellows laboratory space was also added to the rooms section.
Investigational Study Agent(s)/Toxin(s): Bacteriophage
Committee Discussion: Bacteriophage is a virus that replicates in bacteria. The virus is not infectious to humans.
Training Requirements: BSL2 training.
Motion: Approve as amended.
Votes: For: 7
Against: 0
Abstain: 0

e. **HMR-2016-01-rhn (R. Halfmann – Prion detection in human biospecimens)**
Primary reviewer: L. Wiedemann
Applicable NIH Guidelines: None
Biosafety Level: BSL2
Project Overview: The overall goal of this project is to develop tools to detect and characterize amyloid particles from exogenous sources, including samples from human patients. This revision adds two additional sources of brain samples from cadavers, the Mayo Clinic and UCSF. As these samples are from Biobanks and are not from living individuals, they are not considered "human subjects research". There are no ethical concerns. The HMR form had been updated to the newest version. Each source had two new questions answered with respect to human stem cells.
Investigational Study Agent(s)/Toxin(s): Human tissues and cell lines.
Committee Discussion: No questions or concerns.
Training Requirements: BSL2 training.
Motion: Approve as amended.
Votes: For: 6
Against: 0
Abstain: 1, R. Halfmann.

5. **Continuing Review IBC Registrations for Review/Approval** (handouts) vote

a. **IBC-2002-08-pat (P. Trainor – Gain and loss-of-function in mouse, avian, aquatic and reptile embryos)**
Primary reviewer: J. Haug
Applicable NIH Guidelines: III-D-4-a
Biosafety Level: BSL1
Project Overview: They are using multiple species, looking at the genes that function in development.
Investigational Study Agent(s)/Toxin(s): Transgenic vertebrate embryos
Committee Discussion: This work has been ongoing since 2002.
Training Requirements: Basic lab safety training.
Motion: Approve as amended.
Votes: For: 7
Against: 0
Abstain: 0

b. **IBC-2003-28-jlw (J. Workman – Protein expression using Baculovirus vectors in insect cells)**
Primary reviewer: J. Haug
Applicable NIH Guidelines: III-D-3-e
Biosafety Level: BSL1
Project Overview: Use of baculovirus to express proteins in insect cell lines.
Investigational Study Agent(s)/Toxin(s): Baculovirus
Committee Discussion: Baculovirus is not infectious to humans. There is an excerpt in section VII.C. from the Clontech manual. It was noted that Clontech is no longer in business.
Training Requirements: Basic lab safety training.
Motion: Approve as amended.
Votes: For: 7
Against: 0
Abstain: 0

c. **IBC-2019-11-arb (A. Bazzini – Expression of protein in E. coli BL21 strains)**
Primary reviewer: C. Zhao
Applicable NIH Guidelines:
Biosafety Level: BSL1
Project Overview: They are using E. coli to produce Cas13d
Investigational Study Agent(s)/Toxin(s):
Committee Discussion: No concerns or questions.
Training Requirements: Basic lab safety training.
Motion: Approve as amended.
Votes: For: 7
Against: 0
Abstain: 0

6. **Any Other New Business:** None

7. **Training Opportunities**
See: https://osp.od.nih.gov/events/ or https://absa.org/events/

8. **Meeting Adjourned:** 1:45pm

Respectfully submitted,
Lauren Benoist, CPIA
IACUC & IBC Coordinator II