



## Minutes

**BRI Institutional Biosafety Committee  
Institutional Biosafety Committee  
3/10/2026  
1:00 pm  
Zoom**

### 1 **Statements of Confidentiality and Conflicts of Interest**

**Quorum and Meeting Access:** The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:04 pm and noted that the meeting was open to the public. Quorum existed at the start of the meeting with 8 voting members present. A quorum was maintained for the entire meeting.

**Confidentiality:** The Chair reminded the committee that while redacted meeting minutes will be made public, the information discussed should be considered confidential to protect the identity of individuals and the competitiveness of proprietary or technical information.

**Conflict of Interest:** The Chair asked the committee if any members needed to declare a conflict of interest with respect to any matter on the agenda. The Chair notified committee members that if they had a conflict of interest, they must leave the room during the final discussion and voting on that IBC submission.

### 2 **Attendees**

#### **Committee Members Present**

Lewis Bowen (Campus Operations)	Biological Safety Officer
Benjamin Gantner (Medicine)	Chair
Kunal Gupta (Neurosurgery)	R/SNA Technology Expert
Anna Huppler (Pediatrics)	R/SNA Technology Expert
Eric Jensen (Research Office)	Animal Containment Expert
Tyce Kearl (Medicine)	R/SNA Technology Expert HGT Expert
Nikki Lytle (Surgery)	R/SNA Technology Expert
Matthew Surdel (Medicine)	R/SNA Technology Expert

#### **Committee Members Absent**

Kenneth Allen (Research Office)	Alternate Animal Containment Expert, Non-Voting
Lezi E (Cell Biology Neurobiology and Anatomy)	R/SNA Technology Expert
Angela Mathison (Surgery)	R/SNA Technology Expert

Sandy Montes-Gruber (Non-MCW)

Non-Affiliated Member

Qizhen Shi (Pediatrics)

R/SNA Technology Expert

Laura Stephens (Non-MCW)

Non-Affiliated Member

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### 3 Meeting Minutes Reviewed at this Meeting

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02/10/2026 (Zoom)

<b>Motion:</b>	Minutes Approved
<b>Yes Votes:</b>	8
<b>No Votes:</b>	0
<b>Abstained:</b>	0
<b>Recused:</b>	0
<b>Total Votes:</b>	8

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### 4 New Business

#### 1. IBC Standard – *IBC Membership*

The Chair presented the Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) Standard entitled *IBC Membership* and reminded the IBC when the Standard was created, the IBC at that time determined that members could serve a limit of two consecutive three-year terms. The Chair proposed removing that requirement to allow members to serve additional consecutive terms. He clarified that removing this requirement would not mean that IBC members would have to continue serving, simply that they would have the option to remain on the IBC. The Chair asked if there were any questions or concerns. There being none, he asked the Committee to consider this change over the coming month, and there would be an official vote at the next IBC meeting.

#### 2. Revised IBC Standard – *IBC Application Requirements*

The Chair presented the revised Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) Standard: *IBC Application Requirements* to the IBC. He reminded the Committee that this Standard was approved at the January 13, 2026 meeting and allows Principal Investigators (PIs) to have consortium-like IBC applications that could cover multiple studies, including studies under the supervision of collaborators. This revision is being brought to the Committee to clarify this standard also applies to shared Animal Use Applications (AUAs) and includes the requirements for IBC applications that support shared AUAs. The Chair asked if there were any questions or concerns. There being none, a Committee member made a motion to approve the revised IBC Standard and was seconded. The Committee voted to approve the revised IBC Standard: *IBC Application Requirements*.

#### 3. Position Statement – *PPE Requirements for BSL2+ Work*

The Chair reminded the Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) of the discussion at the February 10, 2026 IBC Meeting regarding BSL2+ work in locations where BSL2 or lower work is also occurring. The concern with this arrangement is that staff only working with BSL2 or lower agents do not have or use respirators. The Biosafety Office evaluated the situation and recommended that work with BSL2+ agents can be done without respirators as long as that work is confined to biological safety cabinets (BSCs). He then presented the Position Statement entitled *PPE Requirements for BSL2+ Work*, which records the IBC's decision that a respirator would not be required for BSL2+ work performed in BSCs, but all other personal protective equipment (i.e. double gloves, dedicated lab coat, and surgical mask or face shield) would still be required, and PIs would need to submit an amendment to their IBC application to reflect this change. After reviewing the Position Statement, a Committee member asked whether this update would also apply to animal BSL2+ (ABSL2+) work. After brief discussion, the Committee confirmed that the updated requirements would also apply to ABSL2+ work. A Committee member asked if a clarification could be made that respirators would be required for all individuals within the room where BSL2+ work is being conducted if it is performed outside of a BSC. After discussion, the IBC agreed this was an appropriate addition. Upon a motion duly made by a Committee member and seconded, the IBC

voted to approve the Position Statement entitled *PPE Requirements for BSL2+ Work* with the requested clarification.

#### 4. Revised IBC Standard – *Review of IBC Applications*

The Chair presented the revised Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) Standard – *Review of IBC Applications* to the Committee and explained that the changes in the Standard would allow IBC renewals and amendments that do not include substantially new hazards to be reviewed and approved by the Biological Safety Officer (BSO) without having to be reviewed by the full IBC. These IBC renewals and amendments would ultimately be approved after undergoing the standard Pre Review process. The BSO requested the statement “to approved clinical trials” be removed from the final sentence to clarify that this review route could apply to IBC applications that support both basic research and clinical trials. A Committee member asked if review by the Animal Containment Expert (ACE) would still be required if there were no changes to this work. After discussion, the Committee agreed that the BSO and Biosafety Office could determine if ACE review would be required and forward renewals or amendments as necessary. The Committee also confirmed that the BSO could route an amendment or renewal for full Committee review if he felt it was appropriate. The Chair asked if there were further questions or concerns. There being none, he called for a vote. Upon a motion duly made by a Committee member and seconded, the Committee voted to approve the revised IBC Standard entitled *Review of IBC Applications*.

#### 5. Administrative Report

The Chair asked the Committee Members to review the Administrative Report and then invited discussion. No concerns were raised.

#### 6. Exempt Rodent Report

The Exempt Rodent Report was provided to the Committee members.

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## 5 Application Reviews

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### IBC20230060\_AME01 Hematological diseases and Liver

Principal Investigator: Tirthadipa Pradhan-Sundd

**Motion:** Decision Pending Changes

**Yes Votes:** 8

**No Votes:** 0

**Abstained:** 0

**Recused:** 0

**Total Votes:** 8

**NIH Guidelines:** Section III-D-4, Section III-E-1, Section III-F-1, Section III-F-2, Section III-F-7, Section III-F-8 (C-I)

**Biosafety Level(s):** BSL1, BSL2

#### Deliberations:

The Chair introduced this amendment of an Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) application and went on to describe the study. The Principal Investigator (PI) proposes to add lentiviral experiments to study the involvement of hepato-vascular cells (liver sinusoidal endothelial cells, tissue-resident macrophages, and monocytes) in sickle cell disease and hemophilia A. The Committee confirmed that all personnel listed in the application completed safety training appropriate for work with the materials described. The Reviewers requested a few changes, including that the PI provide a brief description of how lentivirus will be used in the study, clarify the training that will be provided to new study personnel, and confirm the biological safety level (BSL) at which lentiviral vectors and animals administered those vectors will be handled. The Animal Containment Expert (ACE) had no additional comments. The Biological Safety Officer (BSO) stated the PI will need to confirm whether the lab is following standard procedures for accidental exposures. After brief discussion, upon a motion duly made

**5****Application Reviews**

by the Chair and seconded, the Committee voted to approve this amendment pending the requested changes.

**IBC20200025\_REN03 Recombinant expression of the spike protein of SARS-CoV-2**

Principal Investigator: Jieqing Zhu

**Motion:** Decision Pending Changes

**Yes Votes:** 8

**No Votes:** 0

**Abstained:** 0

**Recused:** 0

**Total Votes:** 8

**NIH Guidelines:** Section III-D-1, Section III-D-2, Section III-D-3, Section III-F-8 (C-I), Section III-F-8 (C-II)

**Biosafety Level(s):** BSL1, BSL2

**Deliberations:**

The Chair introduced this renewal of an Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) application and the Secondary Reviewer went on to explain the study. The Principal Investigator (PI) studies the structure of the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) spike protein and the protein-protein interactions between the spike protein and other cellular proteins. The complementary DNA (cDNA) of the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein will be cloned into a mammalian expression plasmid or a lentiviral vector for expression in HEK293 cells. The spike protein will be purified for downstream experiments, including structural studies and interactions with the cell surface receptor. The Committee confirmed that all personnel listed in the application completed safety training appropriate for work with the materials described. The Reviewers stated that the protocol is well-written, and the risk assessment and mitigation strategies are thorough. The Reviewers had one minor request that the PI clarify whether vectors will be propagated in the lab. The Biological Safety Officer (BSO) stated the PI will need to confirm whether the lab is following standard procedures for accidental exposure. Upon a motion duly made by the Secondary Reviewer and seconded, the Committee voted to approve this renewal pending the requested changes.

**6****Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:49 pm. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 14, 2026 at 1:00 pm via Zoom.