



Minutes

**MCW Institutional Biosafety Committee
Institutional Biosafety Committee
2/10/2026
1:00 pm
Zoom**

1 Statements of Confidentiality and Conflicts of Interest

Quorum and Meeting Access: The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm and noted that the meeting was open to the public. Quorum existed at the start of the meeting with 11 voting members present. A quorum was maintained for the entire meeting.

Confidentiality: The Chair reminded the committee that while the meeting is open to the public, the information discussed during the meeting should be treated as confidential.

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
Lezi E (Cell Biology Neurobiology and Anatomy)	R/SNA Technology Expert
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
Angela Mathison (Surgery)	R/SNA Technology Expert
Sandy Montes-Gruber (Non-MCW)	Non-Affiliated Member
Qizhen Shi (Pediatrics)	R/SNA Technology Expert
Matthew Surdel (Medicine)	R/SNA Technology Expert

Committee Members Absent

Kenneth Allen (Research Office)	Alternate Animal Containment Expert, Non-Voting
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James Case (Non-MCW)
 Nikki Lytle (Surgery)
 Laura Stephens (Non-MCW)

Non-Affiliated Member
 R/SNA Technology Expert
 Non-Affiliated Member

3 Meeting Minutes Reviewed at this Meeting

1/13/2026 (Zoom)

Motion:	Minutes Approved
Yes Votes:	11
No Votes:	0
Abstained:	0
Recused:	0
Total Votes:	11

4 New Business

1. BSL2+ PPE Requirements

The Chair and the Biological Safety Officer informed the Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) that tissue culture spaces are shared between multiple labs in the new Center for Cancer Discovery (CCD) building. A lab performing work requiring biological safety level (BSL)2+ containment (such as with oncogenic lentiviral vectors) could be working in a biosafety cabinet (BSC) right next to a lab performing standard BSL2 tissue culture. The concern with this arrangement is that staff only working with BSL2 agents do not have or use respirators. The Biosafety Office evaluated the situation and recommended that work with BSL2+ agents in the CCD can be done without respirators as long as that work is confined to BSCs. All other personal protective equipment (i.e. double gloves, dedicated lab coat (either a cuffed lab coat or a standard lab coat with sleeve protectors for added skin protection), 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. The Chair made a motion to remove the respirator requirement for BSL2+ work in the CCD. The motion was seconded, and the Committee voted to approve this change for the CCD location.

2. Administrative Report

The Chair asked the Committee Members if they had any comments or discussion about the Designated Reviews which were completed since the last Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) meeting. There being none, the work was approved to continue with no change to the approval dates recorded at the time of the Designated Review.

3. Exempt Rodent Report

The Exempt Rodent Report was provided to the Committee members.

5 Application Reviews

IBC20130704_AME03 [Analysis of ocular development and disease](#)

Principal Investigator:	Brian Link
Motion:	Decision Pending Changes
Yes Votes:	11
No Votes:	0
Abstained:	0
Recused:	0
Total Votes:	11

5**Application Reviews****NIH Guidelines:** Section III-D-4, Section III-E, Section III-F-8 (C-II)**Biosafety Level(s):** BSL1**Deliberations:**

The Chair introduced this amendment of an Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) application, and the Primary Reviewer went on to describe the study. The Principal Investigator (PI) would like to add a plasmid for neuron-specific green fluorescent protein (GFP) expression in larval zebrafish, which will be used to visualize neuronal morphology and assess axonal pathfinding. The Primary and Secondary Reviewers stated the risk assessment and mitigation strategies are appropriate. The Reviewers noted that PI confirmed a study team member with expired training had left the lab. The Reviewers requested the PI remove that individual from the IBC application. The Animal Containment Expert (ACE) and Biological Safety Expert (BSO) had no additional concerns. Upon a motion duly made by the Primary Reviewer and seconded, the Committee voted to approve this amendment pending the update of personnel.

IBC20220066_AME06 [Role of epigenetics marks in cancer](#)

Principal Investigator: Victor Jin

Motion: Decision Pending Changes**Yes Votes:** 11**No Votes:** 0**Abstained:** 0**Recused:** 0**Total Votes:** 11**NIH Guidelines:** Section III-D-1, Section III-D-4, Section III-E, Section III-F-1, Section III-F-2, 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 the Primary Reviewer went on to explain the study. The Principal Investigator (PI) wishes to use lentivirus to overexpress carbonic anhydrase 2 in MCF7 breast cancer cells. Lentiviral particles will be sourced from vendors and applied to cells in vitro using standard biological safety level (BSL)2 protocols. The Committee confirmed that all personnel listed in the application completed safety training appropriate for work with the materials described. The Primary Reviewer stated that the risk assessment and mitigation strategies are adequate for the materials and procedures added with the amendment. The Reviewer requested that the PI clarify whether cells transduced with lentivirus will be administered to animals. The Biological Safety Officer (BSO) had no additional concerns. Upon a motion duly made by the Primary Reviewer and seconded, the Committee voted to approve this amendment pending the requested change.

IBC20170004_REN03 [Bacteria in complex environments](#)

Principal Investigator: John Kirby

Motion: Decision Pending Changes**Yes Votes:** 11**No Votes:** 0**Abstained:** 0**Recused:** 0**Total Votes:** 11**NIH Guidelines:** Section III-D-1, Section III-D-2, Section III-D-4, Section III-E, Section III-F-1, Section III-F-4, Section III-F-8 (C-II), Section III-F-8 (C-III), Section III-F-8 (C-V)**Biosafety Level(s):** BSL1, BSL2

5**Application Reviews****Deliberations:**

The Chair introduced this renewal of an Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) application and the Primary Reviewer elaborated on the study. The Principal Investigator (PI) studies bacterial dynamics in soil and gut to better understand how bacterial communities compete and affect the microbiome. The study includes microorganisms (many biological safety level (BSL)1 and BLS2 species), recombinant DNA (rDNA) (expression vectors), human source material, and animal products. In vitro assays look at specific proteins and their effects on relationships. In vivo work examines how various chemicals and diets affect microbiomes. The Committee confirmed that all personnel listed in the application completed safety training appropriate for work with the materials described. The Primary and Secondary Reviewers stated the risk assessment and mitigation strategies are appropriate. The Primary and Secondary Reviewers requested several changes, including that the PI confirm all locations where microorganisms will be used or cultured, clarify whether strains of microorganisms will be mixed together, and describe the transport of clinically-collected human samples. The Animal Containment Expert (ACE) requested that the PI update the animal housing location. The Biological Safety Expert (BSO) had no additional concerns. Upon a motion duly made by the Primary Reviewer and seconded, the Committee voted to approve this renewal pending the requested changes.

IBC20190075_REN02 Experimental Chinchilla Models

Principal Investigator: Kenneth Brockman
Motion: Decision Pending Changes
Yes Votes: 11
No Votes: 0
Abstained: 0
Recused: 0
Total Votes: 11
NIH Guidelines:
Biosafety Level(s): BSL2

Deliberations:

The Chair introduced this renewal of an Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) application, allowing the Primary Reviewer to describe the study. The Principal Investigator (PI) studies otitis media using a chinchilla animal model. Animals are infected with various pathogens (viruses or bacteria) and samples are then collected for processing in the laboratory, with the goal to identify factors that underly pathogenesis and persistence. No recombinant DNA (rDNA) or cell lines will be used. The Committee confirmed that all personnel listed in the application completed safety training appropriate for work with the materials described. The Primary and Secondary Reviewers stated the risk assessment and mitigation strategies are adequate. The Reviewers requested a few clarifications, including whether microorganisms will be transported onsite; if microorganisms will be administered to animal cells, tissues, or blood products; and whether human source materials will be used for this study. The Animal Containment Expert (ACE) requested that the PI confirm the disposal and disinfection protocols that will be used in this study. The Biological Safety Officer (BSO) had no additional concerns. After brief discussion, upon a motion duly made by the Primary Reviewer and seconded, the Committee voted to approve this renewal pending the requested changes.

IBC20110753_REN05 Pathophysiology of GVH and GVL Reactivity

Principal Investigator: William Drobyski
Motion: Decision Pending Changes
Yes Votes: 11
No Votes: 0
Abstained: 0

5 Application Reviews

Recused: 0

Total Votes: 11

NIH Guidelines: Section III-D-3, Section III-D-4, Section III-E, Section III-F-1, 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 Primary Reviewer went on to explain the study. The Principal Investigator (PI) examines the differences in graft versus leukemia (GVL) as well as graft versus host diseases (GVHD) using biological toxins, microorganisms, viral vectors, recombinant DNA (rDNA), and animal products. The PI is investigating ways to enhance the therapeutic effects of GVL and minimize GVHD. The lab will be making retrovirus from NIH/3T3 cells to allow for overexpression of mouse GILT gene, which will be used to study how this gene alters regulatory T cell conversion in vitro. Diphtheria toxin (DT) will be used to reduced immune cell populations and study response. Irradiated (IR) mice may be administered cells (A20, MLL-AF9, 5T33 mouse lines) to evaluate GVL effect. The Committee confirmed that all personnel listed in the application completed safety training appropriate for work with the materials described. The Primary and Secondary Reviewers stated that the protocol is well written, and the risk assessment and mitigation strategies are appropriate. The Reviewers requested a few changes, including that the PI clarify which materials in this application may be shipped off site, indicate that cells administered to animals will be transported onsite, and specify when animal bedding should be changed after administration of diphtheria toxin. The Animal Containment Expert (ACE) and Biological Safety Officer (BSO) had no additional comments. Upon a motion duly made by the Primary 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 2:44 pm. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 10, 2026 at 1:00 pm in Zoom.