



Minutes

MCW Institutional Biosafety Committee
Institutional Biosafety Committee
6/9/2026
1:00 pm
Zoom

1 Statements of Confidentiality and Conflicts of Interest

Quorum and Meeting Access: The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:01 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
Angela Mathison (Surgery)	R/SNA Technology Expert
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
Lezi E (Cell Biology Neurobiology and Anatomy)	R/SNA Technology Expert
Tyce Kearl (Medicine)	R/SNA Technology Expert
	HGT Expert

Nikki Lytle (Surgery)
Sandy Montes-Gruber (Non-MCW)
Laura Stephens (Non-MCW)

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

3 Meeting Minutes Reviewed at this Meeting

05/12/2026 (Zoom)

Motion: Minutes Approved
Yes Votes: 8
No Votes: 0
Abstained: 0
Recused: 0
Total Votes: 8

4 New Business

1. 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.

1. Exempt Rodent Report

The Exempt Rodent Report was provided to the Committee members.

5 Application Reviews

IBC20200090_AME02 Use of recombinant DNA in *C. elegans* research

Principal Investigator: Lezi E

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, Section III-F-1, 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 explain the study. The Principal Investigator (PI) is amending the application to include clustered regularly interspaced short palindromic repeats (CRISPR) promoter-activating approaches and human gene expression plasmids that will be utilized in *Caenorhabditis* (*C.*) *elegans*. The single guide RNA (sgRNA) and human gene expression plasmids will be introduced to *C. elegans* through feeding with the *Escherichia* (*E.*) *coli* K-12 strain HT115(DE3). 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 Reviewers requested a few minor changes, including that the PI provide a vector map for the sgRNA vector, clarify whether the other *E. coli* listed in the application is administered to *C. elegans* as a food source, and confirm if standard procedures for accidental exposures will be followed. The Biological Safety Officer (BSO) had no additional comments. Upon a motion duly made by the Primary Reviewer and

5

Application Reviews

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

IBC20120845_AME12 **Functional and Molecular Analysis of Distinct Populations of Nociceptors**

Principal Investigator: Cheryl Stucky

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-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 amendment of an Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) application and the Secondary Reviewer elaborated on the study. The Principal Investigator (PI) would like to add subcutaneous injection of recombinant squamous cell carcinoma cell lines in immunocompetent mice to track pain-like behavior over time. Murine-derived tumor cells will be suspended in phosphate buffered saline (PBS) with or without Matrigel, and injected subcutaneously into mice. The Primary and Secondary Reviewers confirmed that risk assessment and mitigation strategies are appropriate. The Reviewers noted that a study team member has expired BBP training and requested they renew the training. They also requested that the PI confirm whether the added cell line will be transported onsite. The Animal Containment Expert (ACE) and Biological Safety Officer (BSO) had no additional concerns. Upon a motion duly made by the Secondary Reviewer and seconded, the Committee voted to approve this amendment pending the requested changes.

IBC20240058_AME01 **Regeneration of the Vertebrate Heart**

Principal Investigator: John Auchampach

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, Section III-F-1, Section III-F-8 (C-I)

Biosafety Level(s): BSL1

Deliberations: The Chair introduced this amendment of an Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) application, allowing the Primary Reviewer to describe the study. The Principal Investigator (PI) wishes to administer adeno-associated virus (AAV) to mice. AAV will be produced by the Viral vector core or external vendor, then transported onsite for administration to mice through intravenous or retro-orbital inoculation. 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 confirmed the risk assessment and mitigation strategies are appropriate. The Reviewers requested a few changes, including that the PI clarify how long after administration of AAV would tissues be harvested, confirm whether liquid waste will be created during the collection of animal tissues and cells, and specify how the AAV

5

Application Reviews

plasmids will be made. The Biological Safety Officer (BSO) requested that the PI clarify whether a BSC will be used. The Animal Containment Expert (ACE) had no additional comments. After brief discussion, upon a motion duly made by the Primary Reviewer and seconded, the Committee voted to approve this amendment pending the requested changes.

IBC20260015**UTI and Sensory neurons**

Principal Investigator: Aaron Mickle
Motion: Decision Pending Changes
Yes Votes: 8
No Votes: 0
Abstained: 0
Recused: 0
Total Votes: 8

NIH Guidelines:

Biosafety Level(s): BSL2

Deliberations:

The Chair introduced this new Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) application and the Secondary Reviewer went on to describe the study, which was tabled at the May 12, 2026 IBC Meeting. The Principal Investigator (PI) will study urinary tract infections (UTI) and sensory neurons in the bladder. Various pathogenic bacteria will be administered to rats to mimic human disease. The Committee confirmed that no additional safety training was needed for personnel. The Primary and Secondary Reviewers stated that the PI has made significant clarifications and removed several biological materials. The Reviewers requested a few further clarifications, including that the PI specify how syringes will be filled and transported for administration to animals, confirm the source of animal materials, and clarify how liquid waste will be decontaminated for disposal. The Animal Containment Expert (ACE) and the Biological Safety Officer (BSO) had no additional comments. After discussion, upon a motion duly made by the Primary Reviewer and seconded, the Committee voted to approve this application pending the requested changes.

IBC20230049_REN01 gRNA/Cas9 in pulmonary/lung functions

Principal Investigator: Girija Ganesh Konduri
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, Section III-F-8 (C-II)
Biosafety Level(s): BSL1, BSL2

Deliberations:

The Chair introduced this renewal of an Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) application. The Primary Reviewer noted this renewal application was previously discussed at the May 12, 2026 IBC Meeting and then elaborated on the study. The Principal Investigator (PI) wishes to add a plasmid with guide RNA (gRNA) and Cas9 conjugated to nanoparticles which would be administered to animals. The Committee confirmed that all personnel listed in the application completed safety training appropriate for work with the materials described. At the May 12th IBC Meeting, the IBC requested that the PI indicate that work with this plasmid will be conducted using biological safety level (BSL)2 precautions as is described in the risk assessment, as the plasmid will contain both the gRNA and Cas9. The PI had responded that there was not

5**Application Reviews**

infrastructure in place to allow his lab to complete this experiment in BRC Biocontainment, as the animals will need to be housed in special atmospheric chambers. After discussion, the IBC concluded that these materials can be administered under standard procedures for ABSL2 practices outside of a Biosafety Cabinet, raising the ABSL1 space to ABSL2 temporarily through use of appropriate personnel protective equipment and signage, prior to returning the room to ABSL1 with appropriate cleaning procedures. The PI will be asked to update the IBC Application to outline the procedures that will need to be followed accordingly. In addition, the Primary Reviewer requested that the PI include a list of genes that will be targeted to verify that they do not have human homologs, and the Animal Containment Expert (ACE) requested that the PI update locations where animal work will be occurring if administration of plasmid and housing of animals afterwards will be in ABSL locations, as BRC Biocontainment is currently indicated. The Biological Safety Officer had no additional concerns. Upon a motion duly made by the Chair 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 2:21 pm. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 14, 2026 at 1:00 pm in Zoom.