

INSTITUTIONAL BIOSAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
September 16, 2020
3:00 PM, Zoom Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair –Elizabeth Fozo, Vice Chair-Stephen Kania, Feng Chen, Lori Cole, Paul Dalhaimer, Lezlee Dice, George Dizikes, Doris D'Souza, Reza Hajimorad, Jun Lin, Jae Park, Ling Zhao

Ex-Officio – Linda Hamilton, Ahmad Mitoubi, Brian Ranger, Sandra Prior, David White, Jessica Woofter

MEMBERS ABSENT: Marc Caldwell, Brittany Isabell, Melissa Kennedy, Deidra Mountain

OTHERS PRESENT:

Opening:

The IBC Chair called the meeting to order at 3:03 PM. The minutes of August 19, 2020, were reviewed and approved pending correction of typographical errors.

Full Member Review IBC Registrations:

#IBC-20-550-2 (Sree Rajeev) Infectious Agents, New registration

Dr. Rajeev's registration covers the study of *Leptospira*, which is one of the most widespread, life-threatening zoonotic diseases of global prevalence resulting in significant public health, animal health, and economic impact. *Leptospira* is caused by a spirochete bacteria belonging to *Leptospira*. Numerous strains of *Leptospira* are maintained in nature in the animal reservoirs and the environment. Dr. Rajeev is working on projects to advance knowledge of this bacteria's various aspects to develop better diagnostics for early detection and vaccines to prevent disease. For this purpose, they maintain cultures of live *Leptospira* in the laboratory. The live organisms are mainly used to detect host antibody response, characterization of the strains, and other future experimental studies. Containment for this project is BSL-2. The committee approved the registration as written.

#IBC-20-553-2 (Stephen Kania) Infectious Agents, New registration

Dr. Kania was present to discuss his research and development of a vaccine that induces nasal (mucosal) immunity and prevents or minimizes SARS-CoV-2 virus growth and transmission. This entire project involves vaccinating rabbits with a Covid-19 DNA vaccine (plasmid DNA), provided by the manufacturer, and obtaining samples from them to measure their immune response. Containment for this project is BSL-2. The committee tabled the registration pending correction of a typographical error in Section 5.1; addition of details regarding downstream antibody measurement; the addition of saline-sodium citrate buffer before SSC in the technical summary; clarification of why respirators are needed; the addition of a statement from the manufacturer about the nature of the plasmid and that it is endotoxin-free and approved for human injection; and the addition of Oxine to the disinfection table in Section 8.7.

#IBC-20-554-2 (Jennifer DeBruyn) Infectious Agents, New registration

Dr. DeBruyn's registration covers her research on the effect of biochar addition and heating on composting performance during in-house broiler poultry litter composting. Poultry litter samples were previously collected from Pine Bluff Farm in Cleveland, Tennessee, by other researchers. Poultry litter samples are stored in bags in the -20°C freezer. In total, about 200g poultry litter and 500 plates are to be used for this research. Containment for this project is BSL-2. The committee approved the registration pending clarification of chicken litter collection, disposal, transportation procedures, and PPE practices to the Technical Summary.

Designated Member Review IBC Registrations: None

Old Business:

Administrative Report

i. Contingencies

Following up on August 19, 2020, IBC Meeting, Dr. Albrecht von Arnim's registration (#05-240-1) was edited to clarify the *Pisum sativum* usage in the Technical Summary and the addition of BL1-P containment level to the greenhouse entries in the Facilities & Procedures Assessment Section. Dr. Cong Trinh's registration (#11-364-1) was edited to clarify the production volumes and biosafety cabinet certification dates. Dr. Marc Caldwell's registration (#14-418-1) was edited to remove all inactive IACUC protocols, expand on the biosecurity and biosafety measures in the Technical Summary; clarification of the bleach solution dilution and time; and an update to the spill response procedures. Dr. Sree Rajeev's registration (#20-550-2) was edited to include a more comprehensive list of strains, characteristics, strain usage, and concentrations. Additionally, a clarification of ethanol contact time when cleaning a spill in a centrifuge and the interstate movement of pathogens was added to the registration. Dr. Qiang He's registration (#20-551-2) was edited to include the addition of PPE usage and collection procedures in the Technical Summary; the containment level was changed from BSL-1 to BSL-2; and the addition of biosafety cabinet information.

ii. Administrative Approvals

The IBC Chair administratively approved Dr. Doris D'Souza's amendment to registration (#06-298-2) on 8/27/2020, covering the addition of mouse-adapted IAV PR8. The currently approved biosafety level and associated safety procedures are sufficient to work with this agent. The Biosafety Officer administratively approved Dr. Ling Zhao's amendment to registration (#09-344-2) on 8/27/2020, which included updates to personnel listed, grant information, the biosafety cabinet certification date, spill response disinfectant volume and times, and the addition of sleeping beauty transposon-based constitutive expression vector (pSBbi-puro vector) and doxycycline-inducible expression vector (pSBtet-puro vector) from Addgene. The Biosafety Officer administratively approved Dr. Whelan's registration (#14-425-2) on 9/15/2020 to renew his registration for the use of human-derived materials.

iii. Administrative Terminations

Dr. Abhijeet Borole terminated his registration (#10-350-1) on 9/8/2020, and all covered materials were destroyed and discarded. Dr. Datta's registrations (#15-433-1 & #17-503-1) were administratively terminated on 9/17/2020, and arrangements for transfer or destruction have been made through the Biosafety Office.

iv. *Administrative Exemptions:*

None.

v. *Accidents, Injuries/Exposures:*

None.

vi. *Laboratory Report (Hamilton)*

None.

vii. *iMedRIS Update, Manual Reviews, & System Orientation (Woofler)*

The committee was asked to review the iMedRIS form's draft and have comments returned to Jessica by Friday, September 25, 2020.

New Business:

None

The meeting adjourned at 4:43 PM, and the next meeting scheduled is for October 21, 2020, via Zoom.