

INSTITUTIONAL BIOSAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

April 25, 2025

Zoom Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT: *Chair:* Deidra Mountain, *Vice-Chair:* Joseph Jackson, Bryce Burton, Lezlee Dice, Doris D’Souza, Kelsey Finnie, Reza Hajimorad, Andi Lear, Jessica Vélez, Ling Zhao

Ex-Officio: Carolina D. Carter, Emily Deem, Linda Hamilton, Brian Ranger, Daniel Thomas

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ashley Carroll, Paul Dalhaimer, Liz Fozo, Brittany Isabell, Jun Lin, Jae Park

Ex-Officio: Chris Baker, Bryan Cranmore, Jessica Woofter

OTHERS PRESENT: Brian Payne, Rachel Carpenter, Richard Gerhold, Sarah Kauffmann, Jacqueline Risalvato

Agenda:

- I. Call to order
- II. Vice Chair Welcome
- III. Review of March 12, 2025, minutes
- IV. Full Committee Review (FMR)
 - a. Shirsekar, Gautam (RDNA) - New Registration #25-608-2-A
 - b. Risalvato, Jacqueline (IA) - New Registration #25-609-2-A
 - c. Goodrich-Blair, Heidi (IA, RDNA) - 3rd-Year Rewrite #16-442-2-A
- V. Administrative Report
 - a. Committee Approvals & Contingencies – Deem
 - b. Administrative Approvals – Deem
 - c. Administrative Terminations – Deem
 - d. Accidents, Injuries/Exposures – Thomas
 - e. Laboratory Report – Thomas/Carter
- VI. Old Business
 - a. Work violation wrap-up – Deem
- VII. New Business
 - a. NIH OSP update – Deem
 - b. DURC/PEPP update/charter changes
 - c. Safety Stratus form changes – Deem
- VIII. Adjourn

Opening:

The IBC Chair called the meeting to order at 1:37pm. The minutes for the March 12, 2025, IBC Meeting were reviewed and approved as written.

Dr. Joseph Jackson was announced as the IBC's new Vice-Chair. Dr. Mountain, IBC Chair, welcomed Dr. Jackson and thanked him for his service.

IBC Registrations for Full Member Review:

Full Committee Review (FMR) presentations are open to the public. The meeting was subsequently closed for internal committee discussion and voting.

IBC-25-608-2-A (Shirsekar, Gautam) Assessing the potential of crop wild relatives of *Vitis* spp. – New Registration (RDNA)

Rachel Carpenter presented Dr. Shirsekar's registration. Dr. Shirsekar's lab focuses on studying the genetic diversity of wild grape species in North America and their interactions with the downy mildew pathogen. For this project, Dr. Jurat-Fuentes' lab produced a protein via plasmid manipulation. A future part of the project will involve working with the downy mildew pathogen directly. After discussion, the committee voted to table the registration with the intention of archiving the application. The registration is not needed because Dr. Jurat-Fuentes' registration covers the protein expression work that was performed by his lab. Additionally, a USDA permit (not yet obtained) will cover work with the pathogen, so there is no work being performed by Dr. Shirsekar that warrants a separate IBC registration.

IBC-25-609-2-A (Risalvato, Jacqueline) Development and Implementation of a qPCR Assay for Detection and Characterization of Lyssaviruses in Carrier Mammals – New Registration (IA)

Dr. Risalvato was present to discuss her research. Her current project will involve bat swabs and rat swabs (oral and rectal) obtained via MTA as diagnostic samples. The samples were originally brought into the US via CITI approval. Dr. Risalvato's lab will be testing the swabs for the presence of lyssaviruses, including rabies virus. PCR will be used for detection of these viruses. The samples will be received frozen, and inactivation of viruses will occur during RNA extraction. The risk of infection from lyssavirus RNA is negligible; the lab will primarily be handling purified RNA. RNA extraction will occur in a biosafety cabinet. All lab members will wear PPE, and the surfaces will be properly decontaminated. This work is approved for biosafety level 2 (BSL-2) containment. The committee voted to approve this registration pending administrative corrections with one abstention.

IBC-16-442-2-A (Goodrich-Blair, Heidi) Molecular mechanisms of *Xenorhabdus nematophila* interactions with its hosts, the nematode *Steinernema carpocapsae* and insects – 3rd-Year Rewrite (RDNA, IA; NIH Section III-D-1)

Sarah Kauffmann presented Dr. Goodrich-Blair's registration. Research in Dr. Goodrich-Blair's lab investigates the role that genes play in nematode-bacteria association when infecting an insect host. They are investigating recognition between nematode and bacteria and genes that affect

virulence in the bacteria when infecting insects. Various genes are knocked out or tagged to study their effects and locations within the cells. When work is required for biosafety level 2 (BSL-2) containment, proper PPE is worn, and waste is disposed of in a biohazard bag or decontaminated with bleach. The committee voted to approve the registration pending designated member review with one abstention.

Administrative Report

i. Approvals (FMR)

IBC-16-437-2-A – McCord, Rachel (HDM, RDNA): 3rd-year rewrite approved on 3/24/2025.

ii. Approvals (DMR)

IBC-25-607-2-A – Rajeev, Sree (IA, RDNA): New registration approved on 4/8/2025.

iii. Administrative Approvals

IBC-10-408-2-A – Chen, Jiangang (RDNA, HDM): 3rd-year rewrite approved on 3/13/2025.

Note: The recombinant DNA work described in this registration is exempt under the NIH guidelines.

IBC-22-584-2 – Monteith, Andrew (HDM, IA, RDNA): Amendment approved 3/18/2025.

IBC-24-596-2-B – Danquah, Michael (IA, NANO): 1st-year annual update approved 3/18/2025.

IBC-16-439-2-A – Fecteau, Kellie (HDM): 3rd-year rewrite approved on 3/18/2025.

IBC-22-587-2 – Rajeev, Sree (IA, NANO, RDNA): 2nd-year annual update approved on 3/20/2025.

IBC-23-593-1 – Hemingway, Claire (VENOM): Amendment approved 4/9/2025.

IBC-06-277-2-A – Sparer, Timothy (HDM, IA, RDNA): Amendment approved on 4/9/2025.

IBC-24-603-2-A – Clasen, Sara (HDM, IA, RDNA): Amendment approved on 4/16/2025.

IBC-14-420-1-C – Stewart, Neal (RDNA): 2nd-year annual update approved on 4/24/2025.

IBC-21-557-2-B – Dalhaimer, Paul (RDNA, NANO): 1st-year annual update approved on 4/25/2025.

IBC-21-573-2-A – Jackson, Joseph (HDM, IA, RDNA): Amendment approved on 4/25/2025.

iv. *Accidents, Injuries/Exposures*

Life Sciences Infectious Agent Exposure

An undergraduate student was performing a procedure in a life sciences lab where physical manipulation of tissue potentially containing an (non-recombinant) infectious agent was occurring. The student was wearing prescription eyeglasses but not splash-proof goggles. An exposure of the material was suspected in the eye, and the student sought medical treatment. The Biosafety Office is working with the PI and the lab manager to finalize an incident report and review the lab's current procedures. The lab is currently working on obtaining splash-proof goggles that will fit over prescription eyewear. IBC members suggest if the lab doesn't wish to incorporate eyewear into their procedures, that alternatively, the tissue manipulation could be done in a biosafety cabinet.

Old Business:

i. **Work Violation Follow-Up**

In the February meeting, the IBC discussed a report of non-registered fungal work occurring in Dabney Buehler. Since that discussion, the IBC has issued a formal notice to the PI, department head, and Lab Safety Advocate (LSA). A follow-up from the PI on the notice included an assurance that no lab member showed any signs of exposure to the agent and that the lab will not be working with the agent in the future. The lab where the non-registered work occurred is being decommissioned with the aid of Lab Safety Services.

New Business:

ii. **NIH OSP Memorandum: Transparency of Minutes and Membership Roster**

As of June 1, 2025, the IBC will be required to publicly post meeting minutes on a public-facing institutional website. In addition, the NIH Office of Science Policy (OSP) will publicly post the rosters of all active IBCs via the IBC-Registration Management System. For this IBC, the meeting minutes have been consistently posted via the EHS website for many years. Additionally, a current IBC member roster is available on the same website. Changes to the procedures relating to the minutes are not anticipated, but members are reminded that the minutes are always able to be discussed prior to approval and posting.

iii. **Charter Changes related to updated DURC/PEPP Policy**

With the new USG policy relating to the oversight of Dual Use Research of Concern (DURC) and Pathogens of Enhanced Pandemic Potential (PEPP), some language in the charter needs to be updated. The current language in the charter, under IBC Responsibilities and Objectives, is as follows: "Establish a framework for the identification, management, and reporting of dual use research of concern as defined in the [*United States Government Policy for Institutional Oversight of Life Sciences Dual Use Research of Concern*](#) as applicable. If dual use research of concern is identified, an IBC-selected panel will serve

as the Institutional Review Entity (IRE) as described in the policy.” The new suggested language is as follows: “Establish a framework for the identification, management, and reporting of Dual Use Research of Concern (DURC) and research that may involve Pathogens of Enhanced Pandemic Potential (PEPP) as defined in the [*United States Government Policy for Oversight of Dual Use Research of Concern and Pathogens with Enhanced Pandemic Potential*](#) as applicable. If research falling under the policy is identified, an IBC-selected panel will serve on the Institutional Review Entity (IRE) as described in the policy.” With the increased purview of the policy, IBC leadership suggests that the IRE, if needed to be established, would be a separate committee from the IBC. Members suggested adjusting the wording from “IBC-selected panel” to “IBC-approved panel”. A survey will be sent out to collect votes regarding the changes.

iv. **Safety Stratus Form Changes**

In addition to the charter, registration forms on Safety Stratus will be updated to include language from the aforementioned USG policy on DURC/PEPP. The forms will be expanded to include questions distinguishing Category 1 and Category 2 research as described in the policy. There was no discussion from the committee, so the changes will be applied ahead of the May 6 policy implementation date. In addition, changes related to the phrasing of some questions will be implemented. The intent of the questions will not be altered, but the phrasing will be made more concise and clearer. The forms affected are the Main Form and the Project Safety and Facility Assessment forms.

Closing:

The IBC Chair adjourned the meeting at 3:14pm. The next meeting will take place on May 30, 2025, at 1:30pm EST via Zoom.