Wadsworth Center Institutional Biosafety Committee
May 11, 2026
Meeting Minutes

ATTENDANCE

In attendance: Robert Glaser (Chair), David Hill (BSO), Corey Bennett, Joseph Wade, Steven Zink, Seth Blumerman, Christina Egan, and Carlos deNoronha. Absent: Mike Perry, Trent Gemmill, and Kirsten St. George. A quorum of the committee was present. The meeting was held remotely via Teams.

MEETING MINUTES

The minutes were reviewed and approved by all IBC members.

NEW APPLICATIONS - None

ADDENDUM REQUESTS

1. PI: Anil Ojha
   Project Title: Pathogenesis and Persistence of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*.
   Application number: 23-004R
   Applicable NIH Guideline: III-D-1b
   Experiments involving the introduction of recombinant or synthetic nucleic acid molecules into Risk Group 3 agents.
   Nature of addendum request: addition of 4 new *M. tuberculosis* host strains.
   1) *Mtb* (Erdman) wild-type (WT) harboring an empty vector.
   2) *Mtb* (Erdman) harboring a deletion of the *Rv0042c* gene (single knockout; SKO) with empty vector.
   3) Δ*mpy*:Δ*Rv0042c* (double knockout; DKO), generated in a Δ*mpy* background and carrying an empty vector
   4) Δ*Rv0042c*:Rv0042c (complemented strain; Comp).
   Risk Assessment
   - *Mtb* (Erdman) is the parent for all the strains. The Ojha lab is approved to work with wild-type *Mtb* (Erdman) and does so routinely.
   - The Chair confirmed with the PI that strains #1 and #4 will be phenotypically unchanged from wildtype and that virulence is expected to be attenuated in strains #2 and #3 that contain a deletion of stress response transcription factor *Rv0042c*.

   Containment
   - The Ojha lab is already approved to work with *Mtb* (Erdman) strains at a BSL-3 level of containment. Addition of the 4 new host strains does not change the level of containment required for the proposed experiments.

   Training
   - The lab is confirmed to have approved lab-specific BSL-2 and BSL-3 safety plans that include annual safety training. Addition of the 4 new host strains does not change the training requirements for the lab.

   IBC Vote
   - The IBC voted unanimously to approve the addendum request and that no changes in containment or training are required.

RENEWAL APPLICATIONS

1. PI: Haixin Sui
   Project Title: Intraflagellar transport process in primary cilium maintenance
   Application number: 26-001R
   Applicable NIH Guideline: III-D-3b
   Experiments involving the use of infectious or defective Risk Group 3 viruses in the presence of a helper system.
   Objectives:
   a) Investigate the dynamic behaviors and structures of intraflagellar transport complexes in primary cilia and their functional roles in structural maintenance of primary cilia.
   Approaches:
   a) Biochemical and structural studies.
   Source organisms; genes being cloned; gene function
   Not associated with infection of humans
   Murine, porcine, and human cell lines.
   Various genes encoding intraflagellar proteins, expression cassettes.
   Cloning vectors
   RG-3 & RG-2
   Commercial lentivirus vectors.
   Not associated with infection of humans
   Commercial baculovirus vectors.
   Host organisms
   RG-1
   E. coli (commercial strains)
   Not associated with infection of humans
   Murine, insect, and human cell lines.
   Risk Assessment
   - None of the gene products being studied present occupational or environmental biosafety risks.
   - Use of lentivirus vectors poses a low biosafety risk by percutaneous exposure and subsequent insertional mutagenesis of vector sequences. Expression of the genes being cloned into the lentivirus vectors pose no known biosafety risk.
   - Dr. Sui's lab has not previously worked with lentivirus vectors, but a new postdoc who will be performing the lentivirus experiments has extensive experience.

   Containment
   - BSL-2 is the appropriate level of containment for the proposed experiments using lentivirus vectors. All other research can be performed safely using BSL-1 practices.

   Training:
   - The PI is working with the Safety Office and BSO to develop a lab-specific BSL-2 Safety Plan that spells out the safety procedures that are required to work with lentivirus vectors. Lab members that will be performing experiments using lentivirus vectors will receive appropriate training.

   IBC Vote
   - The IBC voted unanimously to approve the renewal application with the condition that the BSO and IBC Chair will have reviewed and approved the final BSL-2 Safety Plan before experiments using lentivirus vectors can begin.