MINUTES
INSTITUTIONAL BIOSAFETY COMMITTEE
UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT

Storrs, Groton, Hartford, Stamford, Waterbury

IBC Registration Meeting June 12, 2025
Chair: M.A. Amalaradjou Virtual – Microsoft Teams

Meeting Time	1:30 PM – 3:30 PM
IBC Members Present	*Voting* 1. Amalaradjou, Mary Anne *(IBC Chair)* 2. Cavallaro, David *(BSO Voting Contact)* 3. Chidambaram, Ramaswamy *(Animal Expert)* 4. Heyduk, Karolina *(Plant Expert)* 5. Macierowski, Bobbie *(Local Non-Affiliated Member)* 6. Maltz-Matyschsyk, Michele *(Molecular and Cell Biology)* 7. Miller, Robert *(Local Non-Affiliated Member)* 8. Szczepanek, Steven *(Vice Chair, Pathobiology)* 9. Wright, Dennis *(Pharmaceutical Sciences)* *Non-Voting* 10. Lucas, Melanie *(Non-Voting Director, Research Integrity)*
IBC Members Not Present	11. Brennan, James *(Animal Care Services)* 12. Chen, Yupeng *(Biomedical Engineering)* 13. Delage, Danielle *(Non-Voting IBC Contact)* 14. Lewchik, Brent *(Non-Voting Director, EHS)*
Other Individuals in Attendance	*None*

The IBC has eleven voting members. A minimum of five members are required to conduct business. Nine voting members were present, meeting quorum.

The IBC Chair called the meeting to order at 1:31 PM and opened with the Chair reading the confidentiality statement.

I. Confidentiality Statement:

Members were reminded that all information provided in writing or discussed at this meeting may be sensitive or proprietary and must be considered confidential.

II. Conflict of Interest:

All members were reminded that no member of an IBC may be involved (*except providing information requested by the IBC*) in the review or approval of a project in which the member has been or expects to be engaged or has a direct financial interest.

IBC members must disclose potential conflicts of interest. If a conflict arises, that member is recused from reviewing and voting on motions for the submission. Committee members were asked to declare potential real or perceived conflicts of interest with submissions on the agenda.

No conflicts of interest were reported.

III. Announcements:

1. New Committee members were introduced.

IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Committee members were provided with an opportunity to review proposed minutes from the April 3, 2025, meeting. The Chair opened the floor for discussion. The committee has no comments or questions.

The Chair moved to approve the minutes as written, which was seconded, with the following votes: 5 in favor, 0 opposed, and 4 abstentions. MOTION CARRIED

V. Chair Report of Administrative Actions:

Administrative actions taken by the Chair since the last meeting were presented to the committee. Revisions were received for submissions previously reviewed by the IBC, and approvals were finalized.

VI. BSO Report:

Laboratory audits are conducted periodically to assess facilities and lab practices to ensure compliance with all applicable Biosafety requirements. A report of biosafety audits conducted since the last meeting was presented to the committee.

Findings requiring corrective action: lack of up-to-date freezer inventory and overdue safety training.

No reportable incidents occurred.

VII. Registration Review

1. **Registration Renewal #200R2P** – **PI Name:** Senjie Lin
   Project Title: Molecular Ecology of Marine Microalgae - Dinoflagellates & Diatoms

Project overview: The lab studies marine microalgae. Phytoplankton samples from Long Island sound are analyzed. The lab uses microscopy for counts and identification, DNA extraction followed by PCR and sequencing of ribosomal RNA genes. RNA may also be extracted for sequencing. Phytoplankton cultures will be grown under various environmental conditions. The cultures will be evaluated, and nucleic acids may be extracted for sequencing or cloning using the TA cloning kit (*E. coli* Dh5α). Quantitative PCR may also be run to estimate gene expression.

The dinoflagellate, *Oxyrrhis marina* will be transformed via electroporation for functional genetic studies. The lab also utilizes CRISPR/Cas9 to generate mutants and conduct gene knockout (KO) studies in *O. marina*.

The diatom *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* will be used to host recombinant plasmids to express sensor genes and a reporter. The lab will identify, isolate, and build GFP expression vectors in non-pathogenic *E. coli* K-12 strains to sense various environmental conditions using sequences from this genus.

Risk Assessment:

- **Agents & Host-Vector Systems:** RG1 *E. coli* K-12 is used to clone plasmids. Dinoflagellates, and diatoms are modified via electroporation or transformed with CRISPR/Cas9 systems to express fluorescent reporters.
- **rsNA Experiments:** Source organisms for rsNA include *Aequorea victoria*, *Phaeodactylum tricornutum*, *Prorocentrum shikokuense*, and *S. pyogenes* (CRISPR). The nature of rsNA inserts or gene targets include sensors, structural proteins, and fluorescent proteins.
- **Practices & Equipment:** Autoclave for treatment of cultures and wastes.
- **PPE:** Lab coats, gloves, safety glasses.
- **Personnel Training & Expertise:** At the time of review, lab members were compliant with the required EHS training. Personnel experience and qualifications sufficient.
- **Containment:** BSL-1 for isolates, BSL-2 practices initially for environmental samples.

Committee Comments & Discussion:

- One clerical modification is needed to clarify information reflected in the Plasmid Table.

Motion: D. Cavallaro made a motion to approve registration renewal 200R2P with conditions, which was seconded.

Committee Action: The committee voted on the motion with 9 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions. MOTION CARRIED

Registration Renewal #200R2 was approved with conditions for a three-year term under the following NIH Classifications:

1. **III-D-2** (experiments involving rsNA from RG2 *S. pyogenes,* in lower eukaryotes) under **BL1**
2. **III-E** (experiments involving transfecting lower eukaryotes to express fluorescent reporters) under **BL1**

3. **III-F-1**
4. **III-F-2**
5. **III-F-5**
6. **III-F-8 C-II**
   BSL-2 containment and practices must be used when working with environmental samples. BSL-1 containment was determined appropriate for handling isolates.

VIII. Old Business:

1. None

IX. New Business:

1. None

X. Items from the Floor:

1. None and there were no public comments.

IBC Chair adjourned meeting at 1:50 PM.

Next Meeting Scheduled: August 7, 2025 at 1:30 PM – Web Conference

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