UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT
Storrs, Groton, Hartford, Stamford, Waterbury

INSTITUTIONAL BIOSAFETY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES

Chair: M.A. Amalaradjou
Meeting Time: 1:30 PM

June 11, 2026
Web Conference

Attendance

Voting Members	Committee Role	Record
Amalaradjou, Mary Anne	*IBC Chair*	Present
Brennan, James	*Animal Expert*	Present
Cavallaro, David	*BSO, Secondary NIH Contact*	Present
Chidambaram, Ramaswamy	*Secondary Animal Expert*	Present
Heyduk, Karolina	*Plant Expert*	Present
Macierowski, Bobbie	*Local Non-Affiliated Member*	Absent
Maltz-Matyschsyk, Michele	*Vice Chair, Molecular and Cell Biology*	Present
Miller, Robert	*Local Non-Affiliated Member*	Present
Wunder, Elsio	*Pathobiology*	Present
Wright, Dennis	*Pharmaceutical Sciences*	Absent
Non-Voting Members		
Delage, Danielle	*NIH Contact, IBC Program Director*	Present
Lewchik, Brent	*EHS Director*	Present
Lucas, Melanie	*RICS Director–Animal Research & Safety*	Absent

The IBC has ten voting members; a minimum of five members is required for quorum. Eight voting members were present, and quorum was met.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:31 PM.

I. Confidentiality Statement & Conflict of Interest

The Chair read the confidentiality statement and briefly reviewed the COI policy with the committee. Committee members were asked to declare potential conflicts and no conflicts were reported.

II. Announcements

None

III. Review of Minutes

The Committee reviewed the proposed minutes from the April 2, 2026 and May 7, 2026 meetings.

A motion to approve the minutes as written was made and seconded. The Committee voted 7 in favor, 0 opposed, with 1 abstention. The motion carried.

IV. Chair Report

The Chair provided a report on administrative actions taken since the last meeting.

Submission	PI Name	Committee Action	Status	Date
Amendment 59R2A2	Verardi, Paulo	Approved as written on 05/07/2026	Approval Finalized	05/07/2026
Amendment 285R1A1	Mathias, Clinton	Approved with Conditions on 05/07/2026	Conditions Met – Approval Finalized	05/19/2026
Renewal 6R3	Szczepanek, Steven	Approved with Conditions on 05/07/2026	Conditions Met – Approval Finalized	05/19/2026
Renewal 291R2	Heaslip, Aoife	Approved with Conditions on 10/02/2025	Conditions Met – Approval Finalized	05/21/2026

V. Biosafety Officer Report

Administrative Approvals

Submission	PI Name	Summary of Request	IBC Assigned Classifications	Approval Date
Amendment 60R1A2	Sciolino, Natale	Changes to personnel and a viral vector	III-D-4, III-E	05/19/2026
Amendment 263R2A1	Sun, Jianjun	Changes to personnel and funding	III-D-4, III-E	05/19/2026
Amendment 69R2A2	Bahal, Raman	Addition of cell lines, transgenic mouse line and administrative edits	III-D-4, III-D-8, III-E	05/20/2026

** Criteria for administrative approval include projects that:*
1. Are exempt under the Guidelines.
2. Involve minor changes that do not affect risk assessment (same BSL, risk groups, and NIH classifications).
3. Add new awards utilizing previously approved activities (e.g., same host-vector systems).
4. Do not involve the creation or handling of materials containing covered rsNA constructs.

Audit Report

Laboratory audits are conducted periodically to assess facilities and lab practices to ensure compliance. The BSO presented a summary of recent biosafety audits to the committee.

Eleven biosafety audits were conducted in May; eight of which had no findings. Each finding was an out-of-date biological inventory.

VII. Review of NIH Covered Experiments

Review #1	
PI Name	Guillermo Risatti
Submission	Registration Renewal 293R2
Title	Connecticut Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory
Project Overview	
Summary	CVMDL is a teaching, diagnostic and research unit that provides service as a veterinary diagnostic laboratory to the University of Connecticut community, to the citizens of the State of Connecticut, New England region and others across the nation. CVMDL has affiliations with the CT Department of Agriculture, CT Department of Public Health, US Department of Agriculture, and FDA. CVMDL is a member laboratory of the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and is accredited by the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (AAVLD). Vertebrate animal samples of all types from blood to whole carcasses are processed and tested by the Pathology and Diagnostic Testing sections. Ticks removed from animals or humans are also tested for the presence of infectious disease agents. Many of the agents they look for are zoonotic and unknown at time of receipt. The lab maintains a library of reference strains of risk group 2 pathogens and nucleic sequences from RG2 and RG3 agents. The Molecular Diagnostic Laboratory performs PCR, qPCR and next generation sequencing on DNA or RNA extracted form samples for agent identifications. These identifications could include foreign animal diseases listed as Select Agents, Rabies and COVID 19. E. coli DH5-alpha is used to host and replicate the sequence containing plasmids. The Serology lab uses ELISA, Western blots, Agar gel immunodiffusion and agglutination tests to detect antibodies to animal diseases in serum samples, Avian Influenza detection in embryonated eggs and rabies by IFA (Indirect Fluorescent Antibody). The Microbiology laboratory cultures, isolates, and performs microscopic and biochemical characterization/identification of bacterial and fungal pathogens. These may also be sent to the Molecular lab. They noted that the laboratory does not perform expansion (culture) of mycobacterial species. Pathology performs the necropsies, collects tissue and other samples for analysis by the other sections and they do the histopathology of the tissues.
Risk Assessment & Discussion	
Engineering Controls	Appropriate PPE
Training	Training requirements must be completed for applicable lab members.
NIH Classifications	III-D-2, III-F-1, III-F-2, III-F-3, III-F-8 C-II
Biosafety Level Assignment	BSL-2 with enhances precautions

Risk Assessment Comments	The unknown nature of the agents that may be present in the carcasses and samples submitted make this work high risk to personnel and a moderate risk to the environment. Injuries or exposures during necropsy are of most concern. Enhanced precautions on the necropsy floor include specific PPE, disinfecting foot-baths, BSCs, clothing and footwear changes, additional training about common zoonotic agents and increased security. The laboratories conduct work in the BSCs and have established SOPs with safety information (PPE and clean up). Spaces are inspected by all EHS sections, including physical and radiation safety.
IBC Motion & Vote	
Committee Discussion	The committee discussed the assignment of BSL-2 enhanced precautions/BSL2+. D. Cavallaro confirmed that the unknown nature of the samples requires additional safety practices. A question was asked about the testing done for Mycobacterium. D. Cavallaro stated that he would look it up and report back to the committee member.
Motion	A motion was made to approve registration renewal #293R2, as written pending training. The motion was seconded and the committee voted with 8 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions. The motion carried.
Committee Action	The committee voted to approve renewal 293R2 for a three-year term.

VIII. Old Business:

1. IBC Policy: The committee was informed that the updated policy remains on hold.

IX. New Business:

1. D. Delage provided a brief overview of the BSAA dangerous Gain of Function brown bag webinar

2. D. Cavallaro informed the committee that a request was received from the NIH Rocky Mountain Lab for information about a PI who requested a recombinant Risk Group 2 agent from their collection. They requested confirmation that the lab was subject to institutional oversight.

X. Items from the Floor

None

Chair made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded. Meeting adjourned at 1:46 PM.

Next Meeting: August 6, 2026 at 1:30 PM