INSTITUTIONAL BIOSAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Chair: M.A. Amalaradjou
Meeting Time: 1:30 p.m.

August 6, 2026
Web Conference

Attendance

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

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

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:34 p.m.

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. Elsio Wunder disclosed a conflict and will be recused from discussion and voting on IBC renewal 372R1.

II. Announcements: None

III. Review of Minutes

The Committee reviewed the proposed meeting minutes from June 11, 2026. A motion to approve the minutes as written was made and seconded. The Committee voted with 5 in favor, 0 opposed, and 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
Renewal 293R2	CVMDL	Approve as written	Approved	06/19/26
Renewal 282R2	Jose Manautou	Approve with Conditions	Final Approval	06/19/26
Renewal 201R2	Yi Li	Approve with Conditions	Final Approval	07/17/26
Renewal 305R2	John Salamone	Approve with Conditions	Final Approval	07/15/26
Renewal 238R2	Thanh Nguyen	Approve with Conditions	Final Approval	07/21/26
Renewal 268R2	Barbara Mellone	Approve with Conditions	Final Approval	07/20/26
Amendment 285R1A3	Clinton Mathias	Approve with Conditions	Final Approval	07/20/26
Renewal 286R2	Hartford Teaching Labs	Approve with Conditions	Final Approval	07/20/26

V. Biosafety Officer Report

Administrative Approvals*

Submission - Amendments	PI Name	Summary of Request	IBC Assigned Classifications	Approval Date
217R2A1	Laijun Lai	New transgenic mouse lines and updates to experimental descriptions	III-D, III-E, III-F	06/18/26
316R1A2	Michael Kienzler	New animal cell line and updates to project descriptions	III-E	06/30/26
84R2A1	Kristen Govoni	Changes to personnel	III-D, III-E	06/30/26
81R1A7	Jelena Erceg	New transgenic fly lines	III-D, III-F	07/10/26
68R2A3	Greg Sartor	New AAV plasmids	III-D, III-F	07/10/26
156R2A3	Jessica Rouge	New cell line	III-E, III-F	07/10/26
304R2A1	Dennis Wright	New fungal organisms	III-D, III-E, III-F	07/13/26
116R2A2	Diane Burgess	New transgenic rat line	III-E, III-F	07/13/26
151R2A2	Alexander Jackson	New AAV vectors	III-D, III-F	07/13/26
69R2A3	Raman Bahal	New human cell lines	III-D, III-E, III-F	07/16/26
29R1A2	Sangyong Choi	New cell line and CAS 9 construct	III-E, III-F	07/17/26
67R2A2	Xiuling Lu	New cell line and updates to the experiments	III-D, III-E, III-F	07/21/26

**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.

Biosafety conducted 22 audits of laboratory and vivarium spaces in June, with 82% resulting in no findings. Findings included overdue personnel training and overfilled sharps containers.

VI. Review of NIH Covered Experiments

Review #1

PI Name	Yongku Cho
Submission	Renewal 351R2
Title	Engineering Proteins for Molecular Profiling of Neural Cell Types
Project Overview	
Summary	The lab focuses on protein variants and modifications that are associated with neurodegenerative disorders such as Alzheimer's disease, engineering proteins through DNA manipulation and assessing their functions in cultured cells and tissue samples. The lab breaks their work into four projects. For Project 1, they will produce a modified tau approach, "the post-translational modification or PTM" to test the hypothesis that tau PTMs at disease-associated sites affect tau oligomerization, conformational change, seeding, and cell toxicity. For Project 2, they will develop a toolkit of nanobodies that can be expressed in cells to detect the RNA-binding protein condensates of specific biomolecular interactions and targeted degradation of RBPs. For Projects 3 and 4, they will focus on tau PTMs specifically found in primary tauopathies, such as progressive supranuclear palsy (PSP), and frontotemporal dementia (FTD).
Risk Assessment & Discussion	
Engineering Controls	Biosafety Cabinet, Appropriate PPE
Training	Training requirements must be completed for applicable lab members.
NIH Classifications	III-D-1, III-D-3, III-E, III-F-2, III-F-8 C-II, III-F-8 C-III, III-F-8 C-VII
Biosafety Level Assignment	BSL-2, ABSL-1
Risk Assessment	Containment practices are adequate based on what is described in the registration. Work will be performed in a biosafety cabinet wearing appropriate PPE.
IBC Motion & Vote	
Committee Discussion	The reviewer noted that two minor training delinquencies for a laboratory member must be addressed.
Motion	A motion was made to approve renewal 351R2, with conditions. The motion was seconded and the committee voted with 6 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions. The motion carried.
Committee Action	The committee voted to approve renewal 351R2, with conditions, for a three-year term.

Review #2

PI Name	Elsio Wunder
Submission	Renewal 372R1
Title	Leptospirosis
Project Overview	
Summary	The overall aim is to understand the etiology and pathogenesis of leptospirosis to develop rapid diagnostic tests and vaccine candidates. This will involve working with suspected and/or confirmed human (clinical samples – blood/sera) and animal (hamster, rat, mouse) samples. The lab describes generating *Leptospira* mutants (deletion/insertion) using conjugative plasmid transfer involving standard *E. coli* strains and plasmids. Human/animal cells will be transfected with wild type/mutant strains to study difference in adhesion using IF and transwell migration assay. In vivo validation will be conducted in rodents to determine LD50 and renal colonization. Generation of recombinant proteins/live-attenuated strains for use as vaccine candidates for in vivo validation. Recombinant protein expression using routine *E. coli* strains and pET plasmid expression vectors. Heterologous protein expression in saprophytic *Leptospira* will be done using replicative plasmid to understand the function of selected gene products in a non-pathogenic strain. The lab plans to validate recombinant proteins and mRNA-LNP vaccines in animal challenge models. The lab uses transcriptome sequencing and analysis to understand host-pathogen interaction. Protein candidates will be developed for diagnostics and to test against seropositive human and animal sera using ELISA, western blot and RT-PCR. The lab will also isolate *Leptospira* from clinical and environmental samples and serodiagnosis from disease prevalence.
Risk Assessment & Discussion	
Engineering Controls	Biosafety Cabinet, Sealed Centrifuge Cups Rotors, and Appropriate PPE
Training	Lab members compliant with training.
NIH Classifications	III-D-1, III-D-2, III-D-4, III-E, III-F-2, III-F-8 C-II, III-F-8 C-VI
Biosafety Level Assignment	BSL-2, ABSL-2
Risk Assessment	Containment practices were noted as adequate based on the details provided. Appropriate PPE will be employed. Biohazard waste will be autoclaved prior to EHS pick up. Work bench and surfaces will be disinfected with 10% bleach.
IBC Motion & Vote	
Committee Discussion	The reviewer noted that outstanding open notes must be addressed. Screening of the new NHP samples proposed was discussed, and E. Wunder clarified that samples are not generally screened prior to shipping. It was noted that IACUC was not aware of this portion of the project. The Committee noted that all NHP samples will be handled as though, they are positive. *1:54 p.m. – E. Wunder left the web conference prior to the committee's discussion and vote on his renewal.* The Committee determined that the new NHP samples should be removed from the renewal and resubmitted as an amendment when additional information becomes available. The PI will update the applicable IACUC protocols, if necessary.

Motion	A motion was made to approve renewal 372R2, with conditions. The motion was seconded and the committee voted with 5 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions. The motion carried.
Committee Action	The committee voted to approve renewal 372R2 with conditions, for a three-year term.

1:57 p.m. – E. Wunder rejoined the web conference following the Committee's vote on his renewal.

Review #3

PI Name	Huanzhong Wang
Submission	Renewal 361R2
Title	Molecular regulation of plant vascular and fruit development
	Project Overview
Summary	The Wang lab's research focuses on understanding plant vascular development, cell wall formation, and fruit development. Their work focuses on model plants Arabidopsis and tomato to investigate how vascular tissue differentiation is regulated, maintained, and how secondary cell walls in the xylem are formed. The research focuses on candidate genes to elucidate their function through genetic and transgenic experiments. Transgenic experiments in the lab rely on Agrobacterium to transfer plasmids with genes of interest into plant tissue. Agrobacterium is a naturally occurring bacteria and known plant pathogen that is commonly used in plant molecular biology. The lab also uses E. coli, DH5a and BL21 strains, as well as various plasmids, presumably to isolate and clone genes of interest.
	Risk Assessment & Discussion
Engineering Controls	Appropriate PPE
Training	Lab members compliant with training.
NIH Classifications	III-E-2
Biosafety Level Assignment	BSL-1
Risk Assessment	Personnel wear appropriate PPE and decontamination procedures are adequate for the work described. *Agrobacterium* is a plant specific pathogen and poses no human health threat. While there is minimal risk to the environment through the introduction of transgenic plants, disposal procedures for transgenic plants should be included.
	IBC Motion & Vote
Committee Discussion	The disposal methods for transgenic plants should be described.
Motion	A motion was made to approve renewal 361R2, as written. The motion was seconded and the committee voted with 6 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions. The motion carried.
Committee Action	The committee voted to approve renewal 361R2 as written, for a three-year term.

Review #4

PI Name	Mary Jane Smith
Submission	Renewal 311R2
Title	Registration of the Waterbury Biology Lab for Full Range of Lab Teaching including MCB 2610
	Project Overview
Summary	This review is for the teaching labs: Biology 1102, 1103, 1107, 1108, 1110, MCB 2610, MCB 2000, PNB 2264, and PNB 2265 utilize a variety of biological materials for instructional purposes, including environmental samples, plants, fungi, microbes, preserved specimens, animal tissues, and limited human-derived samples. Methods include microscopy, microbial culture and identification, DNA isolation, aseptic technique, physiological measurements, dissections, blood typing, urine testing, spectrophotometry, ELISA, electrophoresis, and ecological experiments. Biological agents include primarily Risk Group 1 organisms (environmental microbes, bacteriophages, *E. coli*, pond microorganisms) with limited use of Risk Group 2 organisms (*Moraxella catarrhalis*, *Salmonella enterica*, and other RG2 bacteria) under BSL-2 practices. Animal models and specimens include pill bugs, Daphnia (water shrimp), burying beetles, preserved frogs, earthworms, squid, spiny dogfish, sheep brains and eyes, pig/sheep hearts, rabbit muscle tissue, bovine blood, and commercially sourced frozen mice used as a food source in beetle experiments. Human-derived materials are limited to student cheek cells, optional self-collected blood samples for blood typing, and urine samples.
	Risk Assessment & Discussion
Engineering Controls	Biosafety Cabinet, Appropriate PPE
Training	Training requirements must be completed for applicable lab members.
NIH Classifications	III-D-1, III-D-2, III-F-2
Biosafety Level Assignment	BSL-2
Risk Assessment	All activities are conducted under established biosafety procedures, including appropriate PPE, bloodborne pathogen precautions, BSL-2 containment where required, and proper biohazard waste disposal and decontamination. The instructor selected the correct biological safety risk assessment for the experiments, and overall, the biosafety practices are appropriate for the work described.
	IBC Motion & Vote
Committee Discussion	The reviewer noted that personnel must complete Bloodborne Pathogens Training. The PI stated that the CRISPR was no longer active and would be removed from the renewal. However, while the Gene Editing Form was removed, the plasmids were still listed in the bio-summary. PI will need to clarify.
Motion	A motion was made to approve renewal 311R2, with conditions. The motion was seconded and the committee voted with 6 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions. The motion carried.
Committee Action	The committee voted to approve renewal 311R2, with conditions, for a three-year term.

VII. Old Business:

1. IBC Policy Status Update: On Hold

VIII. New Business:

1. United States Government Policy for Stopping High-Risk Life Sciences Research July 20, 2026

IX. Items from the Floor: None

Chair made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded. Meeting adjourned at 2:08 p.m.

Next Meeting: September 3, 2026, at 1:30 p.m.
