



Institutional Biosafety Committee
Serving the University of Vermont

RESEARCH PROTECTIONS OFFICE
213 Waterman Building
85 South Prospect St.
Burlington, Vermont 05405
www.uvm.edu/rpo

IBC Meeting Minutes
Institutional Biosafety Committee
Hybrid – HSRF 200 and Online
7/15/2025 1:00 PM

MEETING TIME RECORDS

Called to Order: 1:02 PM

Meeting Adjourned: 2:12PM

MEMBER ATTENDANCE

| Name of Regular /Alternate Member | Status (Member or Alternate) | Substituting For |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Christopher Huston | Member | |
| Robert Kelm | Member, Associate Chair | |
| Donna Silver | Alternate | Karen Oppenheimer |
| Allison Falcone (V) | Alternate | N/A |
| Sean Diehl | Member, Chair | |
| Joshua Woolsey (V) | Alternate | Ida Washington Durkin |
| Joyce Oetjen (V) | Alternate | Emily Bruce |
| Maria Sonia Godoy Tundidor | Member, BSO | |

IBC Staff Present: Linda Mei, Abbey Dattilio, Sherri Evans (V)

(V) = Virtual Attendance

MEMBER NOTES

None.

QUORUM INFORMATION

Number of IBC members on the roster: 12

Number required for quorum: 7

OTHER INDIVIDUALS IN ATTENDANCE

Francis Churchill (V) (EH&S)

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

At 1:03 PM, there was consideration of the minutes from the June 10, 2025 meeting. Motion to approve by Member Kelm and Member Huston (7, 0, 0) as written.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Committee members with a conflict of interest related to the review of a specific registration or registration amendment may not be involved in the review or approval of a project in which he or she has been or expects to be engaged or has a direct financial interest.

REVIEW OF PRIOR AND ONGOING IBC BUSINESS

Research Protections Office:

1. The new A/BSL-3 website is now live and will continue to be updated as new information becomes available. RPO is currently waiting for updated versions of the BSL-3 Biosafety Plan, Biosafety Plan, and Emergency Response Plan from EHS. EHS has noted that these documents are still being revised to remove references to Brucella and to incorporate other necessary updates. Once finalized, the revised documents will be shared.

2. Discussions are underway with the BioLabs Innovation Center regarding the use of UVM's IBC. While a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is already in place for a researcher utilizing the IACUC, that individual is also a UVM faculty member. A meeting has been scheduled between leadership from the IBC, RPO, and BioLabs Innovation Center to determine whether a formal MOU will be required for the use of the space. If researchers wish to designate UVM's IBC as the IBC of record, they must adhere to the IBC's Policies and Procedures.

3. Legal counsel has provided guidance regarding the publication of IBC meeting minutes, noting that any references to commercial entities be redacted due to existing contractual obligations. It's unclear whether researchers will receive commercial sponsorship, as current funding includes a mix of NIH and private sources. If any conflicts of commitment arise, researchers will be encouraged to consider utilizing the BioLabs Innovation Center.

Environmental Health and Safety:

1. A biosafety team inspection/risk assessment remains outstanding following Dr. Wargo's recent amendment, with a completion deadline of August 6, 2025. The biosafety officer will coordinate with Dr. Wargo to schedule this.

2. There is expected to be a growing focus on work around soil and plant science, as evident with the recent IBC registrations undergoing review.

Other:

1. OACM provided an update on the autoclaving of carcasses. Biological indicators have confirmed the process has been successful, and although there was an issue with the boilers one week, they've maintained a steady pace of autoclaving the carcasses weekly. To date, approximately 25% of the carcasses have been

processed, and one of the four bays in the -80°C freezer is nearly cleared. Progress will continue on a steady basis.

NEW IBC REGISTRATIONS AND AMENDMENTS FOR REVIEW

1. Review of REG202500007

| | |
|---------------|----------------------|
| Title: | Landfill Cover Soils |
| Investigator: | Matthew Scarborough |
| Submission ID | REG202500007 |
| Funding: | Internal Funding |

Committee Discussion:

This new protocol covers the collection of soil samples covering landfills and isolation of methanotrophs from the soils. Soil samples will be collected, brought back to the laboratory, and processed for methanotroph isolation in biosafety cabinets. The Committee noted the methanotrophs to be isolated are non-pathogenic, and the project is appropriately classified as risk group 1 with the appropriate PPE mentioned in the registration and SOP. The registration was designated as BSL-1 by the investigator, but the Committee has determined the work is considered BSL-2 since there's a possibility for aerosolization and fungi spores when working with the soil. It was noted that N-95 masks should be worn by those who are immunocompromised to reduce the risk of endemic fungal infection by inhalation. The following will be communicated to the investigator:

- Please update the registration and SOP to reflect the BSL-2 designation.
- Please clarify the volume of cultured bacteria in a single vessel.
- Please indicate in the registration and SOP that N-95 masks will be required for immunocompromised workers at the landfill site and for work with soil samples outside of the biosafety cabinet.
- Please clarify the liquid waste management being used.

Motion: Modifications required

Biosafety Containment Level: BSL-2

NIH Guidelines Section: N/A

Training: All required IBC trainings have been completed by personnel.

Additional Safety Requirements: A site visit by the biosafety officer has been completed. Findings from the site visit will be included in the clarifications memo to the investigator.

Votes:

For: 7
Against: 0
Recused: 0
Abstained: 0

Vote Comments/Conflicts of Interest:

Dr. Woolsey voted in place of Dr. Washington. Dr. Oetjen voted in place of Dr. Bruce. Member Silver voted in place of Member Oppenheimer.

2. Review of AMEND202500047

| | |
|---------------|---|
| Title: | Amendment for REG201900010 |
| Investigator: | Jane Lian |
| Submission ID | AMEND202500047 |
| Funding: | Natl Inst Dental Craniofacial/NIDCR/NIH; Natl Inst Arthritis Musculoskl/NIAMS/NIH; Natl Cancer Institute/NCI/NIH; Natl Cancer Institute/NCI/NIH; Natl Cancer Institute/NCI/NIH; Natl Inst Dental Craniofacial/NIDCR/NIH |

Committee Discussion:

The amendment serves as a change in the principal investigator from Dr. Lian to Dr. Gordon for an existing registration. Dr. Lian has since retired, and Dr. Gordon is well-experienced and has extensive familiarity with the operation of the laboratory, policies and procedures in-place and biosafety guidelines. There are no major changes of biosafety concern from the currently approved registration being proposed in this amendment. The following will be communicated to the investigator:

- Please have Dr. Gordon retake the CITI OSHA Bloodborne Pathogens training.
- Please clarify which system allows the production of fully replication competent virus. Please clarify why newer systems that remove the risk of fully replication competent are not employed.

Motion: Modifications required

Biosafety Containment Level: BSL-2

NIH Guidelines Section: Section III-D

Training: Dr. Gordon will need to retake the CITI OSHA Bloodborne Pathogens training.

Additional Safety Requirements: No additional safety considerations are needed. A site visit by the biosafety officer is not needed.

Votes:

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| For: | 7 |
| Against: | 0 |
| Recused: | 0 |
| Abstained: | 0 |

Vote Comments/Conflicts of Interest:

Dr. Woolsey voted in place of Dr. Washington. Dr. Oetjen voted in place of Dr. Bruce. Member Silver voted in place of Member Oppenheimer.

REVIEW OF INCIDENTS

None.

REVIEW OF NONCOMPLIANCE

None.

COMPLETED INSPECTIONS SINCE LAST MEETING

None.