University of Vermont
Institutional Biosafety Committee
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RESEARCH PROTECTIONS OFFICE
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IBC Meeting Minutes

Institutional Biosafety Committee
Hybrid – HSRF 300 and Online
11/11/2025 1:00 PM

MEETING TIME RECORDS

Called to Order: 1:00 PM
Meeting Adjourned: 3:05 PM

MEMBER ATTENDANCE

Name of Regular/Alternate Member	Status (Member or Alternate)	Substituting For
Robert Kelm	Member, Associate Chair	
Jon Ramsey (V)	Member	
Joshua Woolsey	Alternate	Ida Washington Durkin
Karen Oppenheimer	Member	
Joyce Oetjen (V)	Alternate	Christopher Huston
Maria Sonia Godoy Tundidor	Member, BSO	
Sherri Evans	Alternate	N/A
Donna Silver	Alternate	N/A
Jason Botten (V)	Member	
Emily Bruce	Member	
Allison Falcone	Alternate	N/A
Leigh Knodler	Member	

IBC Staff Present: Linda Mei and Abbey Dattilio (V)

(V)=Virtual Attendance

MEMBER NOTES

Guest Schirling joined the meeting at 1:07 PM, and left the meeting at 1:23 PM.
Dr. Botten left the meeting at 2:30 PM.
Guest Kellogg left the meeting at 2:44 PM.
Guest Mellas-Hulett joined the meeting at 1:04 PM, left the meeting at 2:44 PM.

QUORUM INFORMATION

Number of IBC members on the roster: 10
Number required for quorum: 6

OTHER INDIVIDUALS IN ATTENDANCE

Tom Kellogg (EHS), Elayna Mellas-Hulett (LCOM), and Michael Schirling (V)

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

At 1:00 PM, there was consideration of the minutes from the October 14, 2025 meeting. Motion to approve by Member Silver and Member Oppenheimer (9, 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

Updates and announcements will be discussed at the next meeting due to time constraints.

NEW IBC REGISTRATIONS AND AMENDMENTS FOR REVIEW

1. Review of AMEND202500118

Title:	Amendment for REG202100008
Investigator:	Emily Bruce
Submission ID	AMEND202500118
Funding:	National Institutes of Health/NIH; Natl Inst Gen Medical Sciences/NIGMS/NIH; National Institutes of Health/NIH

Committee Discussion:
This amendment proposes to add two new low pathogenic influenza strains, two new bird and cow cell lines, and a new member of the research group. The investigator has included an updated BARD and SOP to reflect the changes. The Committee noted the submission was in good shape, and only required minor clarifications from the investigator. The following will be communicated to the investigator:
- Please correct the year of the influenza strain being added.
- Please update the waste management practices to reflect the biosafety officer's recommendations.
- Please update the BARD and SOP to reflect the reviewers' comments and recommendations.

- Please have personnel take the required IBC trainings.

Motion: Modifications required

Biosafety Containment Level: BSL-2

NIH Guidelines Section: Section III-D and Section III-D-7

Training: Personnel will need to take or retake the CITI OSHA Bloodborne Pathogens and CITI BSL-2 Basic Course trainings.

Additional Safety Requirements: A site visit by the biosafety officer has recently been conducted, so no additional visit is needed.

Votes:

For:	8
Against:	0
Recused:	0
Abstained:	1

Vote Comments/Conflicts of Interest:
Dr. Woolsey voted in place of Dr. Washington. Dr. Oetjen voted in place of Dr. Huston. Dr. Bruce abstained from voting.

2. Review of REG202500011

Title:	Master protocol registration for Dr. Kenneth Hallows
Investigator:	Kenneth Hallows
Submission ID	REG202500011
Funding:	Polycystic Kidney Disease Foundation; Internal Funding; US Department of Defense/DOD; University of Southern California

Committee Discussion:

This new registration proposes to elucidate the molecular mechanisms by which kidney cells regulate blood pressure and fluid composition, with a focus on kinases, hormones, and other regulatory factors. The study is relevant to a range of kidney-related pathologies including hypertension, acute and chronic kidney injury, diabetes mellitus, renal tubular acidosis, nephrotic syndrome, heart failure, and polycystic kidney disease (PKD). Mouse models (whole animals and mouse cell lines) will be utilized to investigate kinase, hormone, and other factor activities. Gain/loss-of-function experiments will be conducted by either lentiviral delivery of mRNA/shRNA in cultured mouse kidney cell lines. In addition, human urine and plasma samples will be collected as part of the BEAT-PKD

clinical trial.

The Committee noted the registration and SOP were lacking clarity and details on the lentiviral work proposed, inconsistent language between the registration and SOP regarding waste management practices, incomplete training, and insufficient details on the clinical trial participation. The Committee stipulated that further clarifications are required before the submission will be subsequently re-reviewed via designated member review by the primary and secondary reviewers. The following will be communicated to the investigator:
- Please confirm if there is a pending IRB protocol or approval in place for the use of human subjects and human-derived specimens associated with the clinical trial.
- Please clarify if the lentiviruses will be made in-house. If yes, please provide additional details on the procedures and engineering controls within the registration and SOP.
- Please update the Recombinant or Synthetic Nucleic Acids Usage section of the registration to accurately reflect the work.
- Please update the BARD and SOP to reflect the reviewers' comments and recommendations.
- Please have personnel take the required IBC trainings.

Motion: Modifications required. Following resubmission, it will undergo designated member review by the primary and secondary reviewers.

Biosafety Containment Level: BSL-2

NIH Guidelines Section: Sections III-D-1, III-D-1-a, III-D-4, III-D-4-a, III-E-1, III-E-3, III-F-1, III-F-8, III-F-8-C-VII, and III-F-8-C-VIII

Training: Personnel will need to take the CITI OSHA Bloodborne Pathogens, CITI Nanotechnology, and CITI BSL-2 Basic Course trainings.

Additional Safety Requirements: An on-site risk assessment has been scheduled, but not yet completed by the biosafety team. The biosafety team will be responsible for working with the investigator to address the concerns with the SOP and evaluating the engineering controls in place for the proposed research.

Votes:

For:	9
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. Huston.

3. Review of REG202500017

Title:	Babesia drug discovery
Investigator:	Peter Hyson
Submission ID	REG202500017
Funding:	National Institutes of Health/NIH

Committee Discussion:
This new registration proposes to cultivate live Babesia in human red blood cells and in whole mice to permit drug susceptibility screening in vitro and in mice infected with the parasite. Human samples will be sourced from UVMMC, and the investigator has a corresponding IACUC protocol for the proposed animal work.

The Committee noted the registration and SOP will need to be updated to reflect the work being done by the investigator, and to remove any carryover work from a collaborator's registration. In addition, the investigator will need to provide details on the handling and waste management practices, potential hazards associated with administering test compounds and collecting samples from the animals, and updates to the usage locations. The Committee stipulated that the submission will be re-reviewed via designated member review by the primary and secondary reviewers. The following will be communicated to the investigator:
- Please confirm if there is a pending IRB protocol or approval in place for the use of blood obtained from the UVMMC blood bank.
- Please include more details on the CRISPR insertion of mutations.
- Please clarify how samples will be transported from the laboratory to the Microscopy facility, and whether the samples will be live or fixed.
- Please include mouse blood as an agent, and more details on these proposed experiments. Please clarify how animals will be restrained or anesthesized during injections.
- Please review the entirety of the registration to remove any carryover work from a collaborator's registration.
- Please confirm the usage locations throughout the registration.
- Please update the waste management practices to reflect the reviewers' comments and recommendations.
- Please include language that hair bonnets and N-95 masks will be used for animal work in the ABSL-2 facility.
- Please update the BARD and SOP to reflect the reviewers' comments and recommendations.
- Please have personnel take the required IBC trainings.

Motion: Modifications required. Following resubmission, it will undergo designated member review by the primary and secondary reviewers.

Biosafety Containment Level: BSL-2

NIH Guidelines Section: Sections III-D, III-D-1, III-D-2, III-D-4, and III-D-4-b

Training: Personnel will need to retake the CITI OSHA Bloodborne Pathogens.

Additional Safety Requirements: An on-site risk assessment has been scheduled, but not yet completed by the biosafety team. The biosafety team will be responsible for working with the investigator to evaluate the engineering controls in place for the proposed research.

Votes:

For:	9
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. Huston.

4. Review of REG202500018

Title:	Symeonides Lab
Investigator:	Menelaos Symeonides
Submission ID	REG202500018
Funding:	Internal Funding

Committee Discussion:
This new registration proposes to investigate the spread of HIV, with a focus on the role of syncytia. As written, the Committee noted significant biosafety issues regarding the proposed PPE, training, and procedures, and voted to defer (table) further review of this submission, as they were unable to make a regulatory determination due to the lack of clarity and details about specific procedures as written. The following will be communicated to the investigator:
- Please clarify how samples will be inactivated prior to being transported to the Core facilities.
- Please provide the grant number for the funding source listed.
- Please provide additional details on all the procedures being performed as part of the work proposed in the registration.

- Please clarify the strain of HIV being handled.
- Please clarify how personnel will be trained to work with HIV, and if there are assessments or duration of experience being used.
- Please update the PPE practices to reflect the reviewers' comments and recommendations.
- Please update the waste management practices to reflect the reviewers' comments and recommendations.
- Please clarify the kinds of procedures taking place in communal spaces or being used in communal equipment, and the kinds of engineering controls in place to mitigate potential risks.
- Please update the BARD and SOP to reflect the reviewers' comments and recommendations.
- Please ensure the requests for additional information are addressed, and the language is consistent in the registration and SOP.

Motion: Deferred

Biosafety Containment Level: BSL-2

NIH Guidelines Section: Sections III-D, III-D-1, III-E, III-E-1, III-F, III-F-1, and III-F-2

Training: All required IBC trainings have been completed by personnel, however the Committee requested additional clarifications on how undergraduate students will be trained to work with HIV, and if there are assessments or duration of experience being used to make this determination.

Additional Safety Requirements: An on-site risk assessment has been conducted, but not yet uploaded into the submission by the biosafety team.

Votes:

For:	9
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. Huston.

5. **Review of AMEND202500101**

Title:	Amendment for Boyson lab safety- Diphtheria toxin, use of recombinant DNA
Investigator:	Jonathan Boyson
Submission ID	AMEND202500101
Funding:	National Institutes of Health/NIH; Internal Funding; National Institutes of Health/NIH

Committee Discussion:
This amendment proposes to utilize diphtheria toxin (DT) for the purpose of ablating gamma delta T cells in genetically modified mice to assess effects on tumor surveillance in lung cancer. In addition, there is a new funding source, new human cell line, and several new strains of genetically modified mice. The investigator has included a new BARD and SOP to reflect the changes.

The Committee noted the investigator has accounted for the appropriate procedures for safe handling, transport, and decontamination when working with DT, however the language will need to be consistent between the registration and SOP. Given the addition of DT, the Committee has stipulated that Dr. Huston review sections M and N of the SOP and the BARD to ensure the recommendations are consistent with current clinical practice. The following will be communicated to the investigator:
- Please clarify whether the mice strains used are expressing human DT or the receptor.
- Please include language that N-95 masks will be used when handling DT.
- Please update the key personnel list.
- Please update the Recombinant or Synthetic Nucleic Acids Usage section of the registration to accurately reflect the work.
- Please update the waste management practices to reflect the reviewers' comments and recommendations.
- Please update the BARD and SOP to reflect the reviewers' comments and recommendations.
- Please ensure the requests for additional information are addressed, and the language is consistent in the registration and SOP.

Motion: Modifications required. Following resubmission, it will undergo designated member review by Dr. Huston to review sections M and N of the SOP and the BARD.

Biosafety Containment Level: BSL-2

NIH Guidelines Section: Sections III-E, III-E-1, III-E-3

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

Additional Safety Requirements: A site visit by the biosafety officer has recently been conducted, so no additional visit is needed.

Votes:

For:	8
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. Huston. Dr. Botten left the meeting before the voting of this submission.

REVIEW OF INCIDENTS

None.

REVIEW OF NONCOMPLIANCE

None.

COMPLETED INSPECTIONS SINCE LAST MEETING

None.