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 200 and Online
9/9/2025 1:00 PM

## MEETING TIME RECORDS

**Called to Order:** 1:02 PM
**Meeting Adjourned:** 2:17 PM

## MEMBER ATTENDANCE

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

IBC Staff Present: Linda Mei and Abbey Dattilio

(V)=Virtual Attendance

## MEMBER NOTES

Dr. Oetjen joined the meeting at 1:32PM.

## QUORUM INFORMATION

**Number of IBC members on the roster:** 12
**Number required for quorum:** 7

## OTHER INDIVIDUALS IN ATTENDANCE

Karolyn Lahue (OACM)

## REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

At 1:02 PM, there was consideration of the minutes from the August 19, 2025 meeting. Minor edits from Member Bruce were noted and will be updated accordingly. Motion to approve by Member Silver and Member Ramsey; Member Tundidor and Member Woolsey abstained (5, 0, 2).

## 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. There was a request from a program officer at the NIH for potential gain-of-function work for Dr. Bruce. Dr. Bruce has communicated and clarified that she is not doing gain-of-function work. There are no further updates.

2. There are no updates to the DURC implementation.

3. Recent BSL-2 laboratory inspections have identified several recurring issues, including: improper setup of vacuum traps, biohazard waste boxes placed directly on the floor, outdated key personnel listed on registrations, missing biohazard stickers on equipment, and sinks lacking hand soap. It was noted that many laboratories were not adequately prepared for the inspections. To ensure better compliance, additional reminders and advance notices will be provided ahead of future visits to allow investigators sufficient time to prepare.

### Environmental Health and Safety:

1. A site visit was conducted in July for Dr. Wargo's laboratory spaces, following a recent amendment. Although the completion deadline was set for August 6, 2025, documentation of the visit has not yet been uploaded to UVMClick. As the assistant biosafety officer, who conducted the inspection and took notes, has been out of the office since shortly after the visit, the inspection will remain open until the required documentation is submitted.

2. There have been no updates on the BSL-3 Biosafety Plan, Incident Response Plan, or Biosecurity Plan documents.

3. In August, the biosafety officer was notified by the CDC about the U.S. Poliovirus Containment Survey. This survey is intended to gather detailed information on facility inventories to ensure compliance with national requirements for the handling and storage of poliovirus materials. While participation is voluntary, past years have seen low response rates. The biosafety officer will determine if any

investigators on campus need to complete this survey.

## NEW IBC REGISTRATIONS AND AMENDMENTS FOR REVIEW

### 1. Review of AMEND202500079

| | |
|---|---|
| Title: | Amendment for REG202500007 |
| Investigator: | Matthew Scarborough |
| Submission ID | AMEND202500079 |
| Funding: | Internal Funding; National Science Foundation/NSF |

**Committee Discussion:**

This amendment proposes to study microbial cultures isolated from a public wastewater treatment facility. The anaerobic digester sludge will be obtained from the South Burlington Water Quality Facility and will be transferred to bioreactors, combined with an equal volume of water and cultured continuously at 35°C for up to a year. The sampling of the bioreactor content will occur periodically using a plastic syringe to extract bioreactor content. .

The Committee noted that past metagenomic studies have identified microbial community members that may be pathogenic, including Clostridium, Anaerostipes, and Tractidigestivibacter. Since viruses and bacteriophages are undoubtedly present in the initial sludge samples and potentially in the ongoing bioreactor culure, the Committee noted that any work with the sludge or samples from the bioreactor must be handled according to BSL-2 guidelines, and must be performed in a biosafety cabinet or within the dedicated, ventilated bioreactor enclosures. The following will be communicated to the investigator:

- Please clarify how and by whom the samples will be collected from the South Burlington Water Quality Facility, and the type of container they will be collected and transported in.
- Please clarify what precautions will be taken when transporting the materials from the facility to campus.
- Please clarify how the samples will be pumped into the bioreactor.
- Please clarify if face shields will be worn by personnel moving samples in and out of the bioreactor. Please clarify what personal protective equipment personnel will be worn when handling the materials outside of a primary containment device (biosafety cabinet or bioreactor).
- Please clarify if the bioreactor has a filter in place to ensure contamination is contained.
- Please either clarify how waste material will be transported in Votey for autoclaving or update the language throughout the protocol to reference UVM's boxed waste system. The Committee noted that auoclaving solid biomass waste is not necessary and has

instead recommended the investigator to consider using UVM's boxed waste system.
- Please update the key personnel list to capture all members of the laboratory. Please clarify which personnel will be working on this new project.
- Please ensure the registration and SOP reflect the additional clarifications requested by the Committee.

**Motion:** Modifications required

**Biosafety Containment Level:** BSL-2

**NIH Guidelines Section:** N/A

**Training:** All personnel listed will need to take the CITI OSHA Bloodborne Pathogens and CITI BSL-2 Basic Course trainings.

**Additional Safety Requirements:** A site visit by the biosafety officer has not been completed for this new work. The investigator will be responsible for coordinating a visit once they begin this work to ensure the biosafety officer can review the proposed procedures and propose any modifications to the registration or SOP if necessary.

**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. Botten.

## REVIEW OF INCIDENTS

None.

## REVIEW OF NONCOMPLIANCE

None.

## COMPLETED INSPECTIONS SINCE LAST MEETING

None.