

**Minutes**  
**July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026**  
**Institutional Biosafety Committee**  
**233 Scott Hall**

**Attendance**

Members Present:

T. Oomens (Chair)  
A. Fewell (BSO)  
C. McGlasson (Alt)  
V. Freeman (Alt)  
J. Gallaway  
D. Cunningham  
D. Maples (Alt)  
B. Epperley (Alt)  
M. Hinsdale  
M. Cabeen  
E. Lutter (Vice Chair)  
K. Southworth  
M. Arif  
A. Hall (Alt)

Members Absent:

W. Kipgen (Alt)  
S. McFee (Alt)  
A. Ramachandran  
J. Olson (Alt)  
C. Franks  
D. Christensen  
B. Holcomb  
J. Ballard (Alt)  
F. Feng  
A. Mitra (Alt)

Non-Members Present:

J. Kane

*Note: In the event that both a member and their alternate are present, only the primary member's vote will count unless the primary member allows the alternate to vote in their place.*

**Call to Order** - With a quorum present, the Chair called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

**Approval of the May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2026 minutes** – A motion was made to approve by T. Oomens and seconded by E. Lutter, majority vote was recorded, and the minutes were approved. E. Lutter, M. Cabeen, K. Southworth, A. Hall, and M. Arif abstained.

**Old Business**

**A. Protocol/Modification Update**

1. 26-7      Xia Lei, "Functional Characterization of CTRP6 in Cell Culture and Mouse Models."

**Approved – 5/29/26**

**New Business**

**B. Protocols/Modifications for Review by Full Committee**

1. 26-8      Lin Liu, "Pathogenesis and Therapy of Respiratory and Infectious Diseases caused by Mycobacterium tuberculosis."

**Category:** Biological Agent and r(s)NA

**NIH Guidelines:** III-D-1 & III-D-3 & III-D-4 & III-E-3

**Source of DNA:** Human, *Mus musculus*

**Vector(s):** Over-expression and knockdown vectors

**Recipient Host(s):** THP-1 cells, Raw264.7, J774 cells, and various *Mus musculus*

**Biosafety Level:** BSL-3

**Project Summary:** This is a renewal of Dr. Liu's existing BSL-3 IBC protocols. No major changes have been made other than SARS-CoV-2 work has been removed since it was downgraded to BSL-2. Dr. Liu's group will use both in-vitro and in-vivo models of TB infection to investigate the roles of iron metabolism, host factors such as PARPs, and non-coding RNAs in disease pathogenesis. Their goal is to elucidate the mechanisms by which these factors influence host immune responses, inflammation, and disease progression, ultimately identifying potential targets for improving TB treatment outcomes.

A. Fewell explained that Dr. Liu made no significant changes from his existing BSL-3 protocol. Dr. Liu's lab inspections are up to date for their lab spaces, and they are current in the BBP program. Committee discussion followed with the only revisions requested involving the inactivation process used for *M. tb*.

**Items to be addressed:**

1. Provide a full inactivation procedure write up in the SOP manual.
2. Control plates must show at least 10 colonies by 4 weeks, or a longer incubation time must be employed until this limit of colonies is reached. No incubation time shorter than 4 weeks may be used.
3. Undiluted filtered samples should also be plated during the validation.

Motion to approve was made by D. Cunningham and seconded by E. Lutter, majority vote was recorded, and the protocol was approved pending the requested changes.

*M. Cabeen left at 11:17 a.m.*

*M. Cabeen returned at 11:19 a.m.*

- 2. 26-10** Mohammad Arif & Shefali Dobhal, "1. Evolutionary phylogenomics, metagenomics and surveillance of plant pathogens 2. Collection, Isolation, Storage, Molecular Characterization, Phylogenomics, Comparative Genomics, and Pathogenicity Assessment of Plant Pathogenic Bacteria (Dr. Dobhal and Dr. Arif)."

**Category:** Biological Agent and r(s)NA

**NIH Guidelines:** III-D-1 & III-D-5 &/or III-E-2

**Source of DNA:** Wild-type plant pathogen isolates

**Vector(s):** No vector work

**Recipient Host(s):** Potato, tomato, salvia, ornamental plants, wheat, rice, vegetable crops, fruit crops, and other relevant plant hosts

**Biosafety Level:** BSL-2

**Project Summary:** This is a new protocol submission for Dr. Arif and Dr. Dobhal. Dr. Arif is the new Director of the IBMF (HBRC 130P) and will eventually be taking over the select agent (SA) plant lab. This protocol will cover all non-SA plant work that his lab group will perform in HBRC 130P as well as at NRC 222 (Dr. Dobhal's main lab). They will develop a genome database for SRPs and other bacterial pathogens to enhance capabilities for rapid detection and strain tracking; as well as validation of the "BacPath" pipeline for robust detection and differentiation of SRPs. Plant-pathogenic bacteria will also be isolated from plant samples collected in Oklahoma. The cultures will be purified and stored at -80°C as part of a culture collection. DNA will be extracted for diagnostic protocol development and sequencing. These bacteria will also be used

to inoculate plants to complete Koch's postulates. DNA may also be extracted from inoculated plant tissues for sequencing and downstream diagnostic analyses.

M. Arif explained that he is transferring all his agents from his prior university in Hawaii and this protocol will cover both him and Dr. Dobhal's non-SA BSL-2 work. Updated lab inspections will need to be completed prior to full approval. Committee discussion followed with concerns that "latex" gloves needed to be removed as PPE, as well as minor editing of wording in one section, and updating the spill protocol.

**Items to be addressed:**

1. On Pg. 19 of the protocol, remove all wording after the comma.
2. On Pg. 57 and throughout the protocol specify non-latex gloves as appropriate PPE.
3. Update spill procedure on Pg. 33.
4. Complete lab inspections.

Motion to approve was made by A. Fewell and seconded by M. Cabeen, majority vote was recorded and the protocol was approved pending minor edits and lab inspections.

*D. Maples left at 11:34 a.m.*

*D. Maples returned at 11:35 a.m.*

*M. Arif left to allow voting at 11:38 a.m.*

*M. Arif returned at 11:40 a.m.*

*D. Cunningham left at 11:41 a.m.*

*D. Cunningham returned at 11:43 a.m.*

*M. Cabeen left at 11:46 a.m.*

*D. Cunningham left at 11:48 a.m.*

**C. Miscellaneous Business**

- Justification for Modification of PPE Requirements During Behavioral Testing of SARS-CoV-2- Infected Mice – Dr. Liu. (Was included with Dr. Liu's protocol discussion)
  - The committee discussed with Dr. Vaddadi (Dr. Liu's post-doc) and concluded that Dr. Liu's group must provide their own data confirming mice are no longer infectious from the same time points as they will perform behavioral experiments with them before a reduction in PPE can occur. Once this data is provided it will be sent out to the full IBC committee for final approval. Dr. Deng will also need to be notified of any PPE changes that occur in the lab. Motion to approve was contingent upon the proper validation data provided by Dr. Liu's group.
  - Motion to approve was made by M. Cabeen and seconded by A. Fewell, majority vote was recorded and approved pending data evaluation.
- New Research Facilities Manager Hired: Dennis Reece starting Aug. 3rd.
- White House Releases New U.S. Government Policy for Stopping High-Risk Life Sciences Research on July 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Adjourn-** The meeting adjourned at 12:03 p.m.