

**Minutes**  
**April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026**  
**Institutional Biosafety Committee**  
**Teleconference Meeting**

**Attendance**

Members Present:

T. Oomens (Chair)  
A. Fewell (BSO)  
C. McGlasson (Alt)  
V. Freeman (Alt)  
J. Gallaway  
J. Ballard (Alt)  
D. Cunningham  
K. Southworth  
B. Holcomb  
D. Maples (Alt)  
B. Epperly (Alt)

Members Absent:

W. Kipgen (Alt)  
S. McFee (Alt)  
A. Mitra (Alt)  
A. Ramachandran  
J. Olson (Alt)  
M. Hinsdale  
C. Franks  
M. Arif  
M. Cabeen  
E. Lutter (Vice Chair)  
F. Feng  
D. Christensen  
A. Hall (Alt)

Non-Members Present:

*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 March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026 minutes** – A motion was made to approve by T. Oomens and seconded by D. Cunningham, majority vote was recorded, and the minutes were approved. B. Holcomb, C. McGlasson, D. Maples, & B. Epperly abstained.

**Old Business**

**A. Protocol/Modification Update**

1. 26-4 Rolf Prade, “1) Energy corn for ethanol production”

**Approved – 3/27/26**

2. 26-5 Mayara Maggioli & Fernando Bauermann, “Construction and testing of bovine respiratory syncytial virus (bRSV) infectious clones and host factors influencing viral entry and replication.”

**Approved – 3/27/26**

3. 23-26 Kelly Craven, “Tapping soil microbiomes to enhance winter wheat productivity and stress resilience/Identification of novel components in stress granule and P-body formation and functioning.” – Modification

**Approved - 3/26/26**

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

1. **25-16** Lin Liu, “Pathogenesis and Therapy of Respiratory and Infectious Diseases.” - Modification

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

**NIH Guidelines:** III-D-1 & III-D-4 & III-D-7 & III-E-1 & III-E-3

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

**Vector(s):** Various plasmids

**Recipient Host(s):** Human/animal cell lines, *Mus musculus*

**Biosafety Level:** BSL-2

**Project Summary:** Dr. Liu's lab research is primarily focused on four major areas of lung disease, with each project utilizing adeno-viral and lentiviral vectors to overexpress or silence specific genes. Their goal is to investigate molecular mechanisms underlying disease and to develop potential diagnostic and therapeutic strategies. Their research focus includes a range of diseases, including idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF), chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), pulmonary complications caused by respiratory pathogens such as influenza virus, SARS-Cov-2 virus, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Mycobacterium abscessus*, and acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS).

A. Fewell explained that Dr. Liu submitted a modification adding the use of an ANY-maze Video Tracking System and the NIR Video Fear Conditioning (VFC) System for conducting automated behavioral assessments on mice with chronic infections of SARS-CoV-2. Dr. Liu's lab inspections are up to date for his lab spaces. A. Fewell further explained concerns that the mazes do not fit inside of the biosafety cabinet. Committee discussion included concerns with PPE required, SOPs, and HVAC exhaust of the AR facility.

**Items to be addressed:**

1. Update SOP to include required BSL-3 PPE.
2. Use of a plexiglass lid/top to cover mice mazes.

Motion to approve was made by T. Oomens and seconded by A. Fewell, majority vote was recorded and approved pending required edits.

**C. Miscellaneous Business**

- CDC Inspection – Remote inspection completed on 4/21-4/22. The CDC may come unannounced for an on-site inspection within the next year.
- The biosafety website has been updated.
- One protocol will be sent for expedited review in the coming days.

**Adjourn-** The meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.