Approved: 3/26/26

Minutes
January 29th, 2026
Institutional Biosafety Committee
233 Scott Hall

Attendance

Members Present:	Members Absent:	Non-Members Present:
T. Oomens (Chair)	J. Ballard (Alt)	
E. Lutter (Vice-Chair)	T. Essary (Alt)	
A. Fewell (BSO)	W. Kipgen (Alt)	
B. Epperley (Alt)	R. Matts	
V. Freeman (Alt)	S. McFee (Alt)	
A. Hall (Alt)	A. Mitra (Alt)	
D. Maples (Alt)	A. Ramachandran	
M. Hinsdale	M. Cabeen	
J. Olson (Alt)	D. Christensen (Alt)	
C. Franks	B. Holcomb	
J. Gallaway	K. Southworth	
D. Cunningham		

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 10:02 a.m.

Approval of the November 20th, 2025 minutes – T. Oomens identified one typo that needed to be corrected. A motion was made to approve pending this edit by T. Oomens and seconded by D. Cunningham, majority vote was recorded, and the minutes were approved. J. Olson, D. Cunningham, M. Hinsdale, and C. Franks abstained.

Old Business

A. Protocol/Modification Update

1. **24-01** Khursheed Iqbal, "Dissecting the Molecular regulators of Trophoblast Lineage Development and function." - Modification

Approved – 11/21/25

2. **25-21** Jeff Ostler Jr., "Dissecting mechanisms of Bovine Herpesvirus 1 gene expression"

Approved – 11/21/25

New Business

B. Protocols/Modifications for Review by Full Committee

E. Lutter left at 10:09 a.m.
E. Lutter returned at 10:12 a.m.
E. Lutter left at 10:14 a.m.
E. Lutter returned at 10:26 a.m.

1. 26-1 Erika Lutter, "1) Chlamydiae - host cell interactions. 2) Pseudomonas polymicrobial interactions"

Category: Biological Agent and r(s)NA

NIH Guidelines: III-D-1, III-D-2, III-E-3

Source of DNA: Plasmid DNA is ready available including sequences Genomic DNA is isolated from bacteria within the lab.

Vector(s): DH5a, JM109, HB101, Nova Blue, SM10, DE3, *S. cerevisiae* AH109.

Recipient Host(s): *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*

Biosafety Level: BSL-2

Project Summary:

This is a renewal of Dr. Lutter's existing 20-1 & 20-2 IBC protocol, no significant changes have been made. The proposed project investigates the interaction of Chlamydiae with host cells focusing on how C. trachomatis manipulates various host processes. The polymicrobial nature of CF infections will also be investigated by culturing and phenotypic analysis of P. aeruginosa, S. aureus, B. cepacia and B. cenocepacia CF isolates. This has been expanding into testing new antimicrobials for the efficacy in targeting various CF pathogens.

A. Fewell explained that the protocol was a renewal submission with no significant changes and that Dr. Lutter's lab inspections were up to date. E. Lutter initially left the room but was brought back in to clarify that no animal work was currently planned, as well as how the lab specific SOPs applied to certain areas. E. Lutter then left the room for the committee vote. Several minor edits were requested.

Items to be addressed:

1. All references of animal work be removed from the project description.
2. Add IBC Sharps Policy to appropriate section.
3. Include more information on the pathogenicity of *C. trachomatis*.

Motion to approve was made by D. Cunningham and seconded by A. Fewell, majority vote was recorded, and the protocol was approved pending minor edits.

T. Oomens left at 10:34 a.m.
T. Oomens returned at 10:40 a.m.

2. 26-2 Tom Oomens, "Molecular manipulation of Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) for fundamental structure/function analyses and for generation and testing of live-attenuated and subunit vaccine candidates in vitro and in vivo."

Category: Biological Agent and r(s)NA

NIH Guidelines: III-D-3, III-D-4, III-E-1, III-F

Source of DNA: Genes derived from RSV, marker genes (GFP, luciferase etc), or genes encoding host proteins under investigation.

Vector(s): Human RSV (wildtype and recombinant), Bovine RSV (wildtype and recombinant), MVA-T7.

Recipient Host(s): *E. coli* K12 strains

Biosafety Level: BSL-2

Project Summary:

This is a renewal of Dr. Oomens's 20-3 & 20-4 IBC protocols, no significant changes have been made. In his lab they study human and bovine Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) (a pneumovirus) at the basic/molecular level, and they

generate novel RSV vaccines for testing in animals. At the basic and molecular level, they typically mutate viral genes and study the impact on protein function via transient expression in mammalian cells, or generate recombinant viruses to measure the impact on viral replication parameters in cell culture. At the vaccine level, they design and generate novel vaccines using a range of molecular tools and cell culture, and then test these vaccines in animals.

A. Fewell explained that the protocol was a renewal submission with no significant changes and that Dr. Oomen's lab inspections were up to date. T. Oomens stepped out for the committee vote. Only one minor clarification was requested.

Items to be addressed:

1. Include BSC recertification date for ABSL lab space.

Motion to approve was made by D. Cunningham and seconded by D. Maples, majority vote was recorded, and the protocol was approved pending minor edit.

3. 26-3 Glenn Zhang, "Use of Infectious Agents in 213 ANSI"
Category: Biological Agent and r(s)NA
NIH Guidelines: III-D-1, III-D-3, III-F
Source of DNA: Bacteria, humans, and animals
Vector(s): pGEX-6p, pET28a, pKLAC1, pShuttle, pCDNA3, pGL4, pGreenFire, pGreenPuro, pMDLg/pRRE, pRSV-Rev, pMD2.g, lentiCRISPR v2, pHIV-luciferase
Recipient Host(s): Mammalian cells, bacteria, or yeast cells
Biosafety Level: BSL-2
Project Summary:
This is a renewal submission of Dr. Zhang's expiring 20-5 IBC Bio protocol; he has also included information from his 20-16 IBC r(s)NA protocol which expires in May. This new submission will replace both. No significant changes were made. Dr. Zhang uses of a range of BSL1 and BSL2 microorganisms in three main applications: in-vitro antibacterial assays of small-molecule compounds and probiotic and commensal bacteria; chicken models of coccidiosis, necrotic enteritis, and salmonellosis; and recombination DNA technology to knockdown or overexpress certain genes in the cells that are difficult to transfect.

A. Fewell explained that the protocol was a renewal submission combining Dr. Zhang's current Bio and r(s)NA protocols, with no significant changes and that Dr. Zhang's lab inspections were up to date. He also addressed that it appeared Dr. Zhang's lab group may need to update their enrollment status in the BBP program. Several other minor edits were discussed by the committee.

Items to be addressed:

1. Change title of the protocol to better describe the work.
2. Add in a statement to sharps policy regarding not recapping needles.
3. Specify the differences between autoclave times.
4. Replace mentions of 10% bleach with 0.5% Sodium Hypochlorite.
5. Make sure all personnel are up to date on BBP and RP enrollment.

Motion to approve was made by E. Lutter and seconded by B. Epperley, majority vote was recorded, and the protocol was approved pending minor edits.

D. Maples left at 11:01 a.m.
D. Maples returned at 11:02 a.m.
M. Hinsdale arrived at 11:02 a.m.

4. 22-5 Andres Espindola Camacho, "High-throughput sequencing as a detection tool of plant pathogens and plant-associated microbiome." - Modification

Category: Biological Agent and r(s)NA
NIH Guidelines: III-D-2
Source of DNA: Synthetic or PCR-derived DNA fragments corresponding to diagnostic target regions from plant-associated pathogens or fully synthetic sequences designed in silico.
Vector(s): Standard laboratory plasmid cloning vectors suitable for propagation in nonpathogenic *E. coli* strains, pMiniT™ 2.0 (NEB PCR Cloning Kit).
Recipient Host(s): Nonpathogenic laboratory strains of Escherichia coli used exclusively for cloning and propagation of recombinant DNA constructs.
Biosafety Level: BSL-2
Project Summary:
Dr. Camacho's research goals are to determine if high-throughput sequencing (HTS) can be used to simultaneously detect all pathogens and microbiomes in any plant host, vector, and soil. Specifically, their research will require the use of purified nucleic acids from plant pathogens, obtained from either live or dead infected plant material. In general, the pathogens to be studied include viruses, bacteria, fungi, and stramenopiles that can infect various hosts, such as grapevines, citrus, pome fruits, roses, and grasses (Poaceae), among others.

Dr. Camacho has submitted a modification to add artificial positive controls composed of recombinant DNA and/or RNA that will be generated to support assay development, validation, and high-throughput sequencing (HTS) workflows. In the past this has all been done with naturally infected material. These recombinant controls will consist of short, non-functional diagnostic target regions cloned into standard laboratory plasmids and maintained in nonpathogenic Escherichia coli, or synthetic/transcribed nucleic acids, and will not contain full-length genomes, intact virulence factors, toxins, or sequences capable of producing infectious agents.

A. Fewell explained that the protocol modification was adding recombinant materials to Dr. Camacho's existing Bio protocol, but his processes and biosafety practices should not change from before. J. Olson and others identified several items that needed to be clarified in Dr. Camacho's existing SOPs.

Items to be addressed:

1. Bleach solutions should be made on a more regular basis if they are used. 0.5 % Sodium Hypochlorite should be used as terminology instead of 10% Bleach.
2. Remove outdated information about EHS stickers.
3. Update if lab autoclave has been repaired, also clarify calibration and BI testing schedule for autoclave use.
4. Update if BSC has been fixed, make sure other SOPs correspond.
5. Remove any "Special Notes" listed in the SOPs

Motion to approve was made by T. Oomens and seconded by E. Lutter, majority vote was recorded, and the protocol was approved pending minor edits.

5. 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).

Dr. Liu has 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.

A. Fewell explained that the protocol modification was adding a maze system to use with chronically infected mice. There were still many unknowns with this project as the size of the equipment may or may not fit within a BSC. It was determined that a decision on the modification could not be made until an appropriate lab space could be identified, as this would determine the level of PPE required by personnel.

A. Hall made a motion to table the project until more information was obtained, A. Fewell seconded, majority vote was recorded, and the protocol was tabled.

C. Miscellaneous Business

- OSU Biosafety Training is now live in the CITI program.
- Upcoming AAALAC and CDC Inspections were announced.
- The committee was invited to participate in the NIH Initiative Webinar and encouraged to submit public comments.

Adjourn- The meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.