



Boston University
Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC)
January 21, 2025 Meeting Minutes
Location: Zoom and/or by phone
Start time: 12:00 PM End time: 12:42 PM

Members Present: R. Ingalls, R. Davey, E. Muhlberger, I. Afasizheva, W. Lu, V. Gouon-Evans, E. Loechler, R. Morales, N. Dey, M. Mazur, J. Keeney, R. Timmerman (joined 12:04 PM), V. Britton, S. Ghosh

Guests Present: P. Richmond, M. Fitzgerald, A. Ellis, J. Wood, A. Ahmad, T. Killeen, S. DiGennaro

Staff Present: C. McGoff, L. Campbell

I. Review of December 10, 2024 IBC Meeting Minutes

No concerns were voiced

Motion: Approved

For: 10; Against: 0; Abstain: 3; Absent: 1

II. Chair's Report:

Members were updated on new NIH and CDC guidelines reclassifying SARS-CoV-2 as a BSL2 pathogen. Based on recent discussion with IBC members, IBC and EHS staff, as well as members of the DURC Committee, it will be advised that researchers currently working with SARS-CoV-2 must submit an amendment to change their biosafety level from BSL3 to BSL2. Members were informed that any new guidance will be shared with the BU research community.

III. New Business:

A. IBC Office Updates: Nothing to report.

B. Review of Research Occupational Health Program (ROHP) Report and Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) Report: No reportable incidents to IBC.

IV. Protocol Review

1. Bhz – Annual Renewal

BUA	(PI)	Title	BSL	ABSL	Campus
2628	Nancy Sullivan	Investigating treatments and preventive measures for coronaviruses	3	N/A	BUMC
Primary Reviewer: Rob Davey			Secondary Reviewer: Robin Ingalls		
Applicable NIH Guidelines: N/A					
<p>Meeting Comments: This project aims to acquire and store coronaviruses capable of causing diseases in humans or other mammals. It includes acquiring, cultivating, and preserving coronaviruses for research applications, expediting studies on emerging pathogens, and enabling virus distribution to qualified investigators with approved protocols. The work description has not changed since last review and work is performed at BSL3. This annual renewal only includes update on biosafety cabinet certification dates. There were no other changes. The committee also voted not to require annual renewal submission of this protocol next year. The following will be communicated to the PI:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Please complete the two additional questions at the bottom of the DURC/PEPP section page that ask to clarify current status of DURC/PEPP status of the protocol.					
Motion: Conditional Approval (Admin Review)			For: 14	Recuse: 0	Against: 0
			Abstain: 0	Absent: 0	

2. rDNA/Bhz-Three Year Renewal

BUA	(PI)	Title	BSL	ABSL	Campus
2355	Mohsan Saeed	Characterization of cellular proteins cleaved during virus infection	2	2	BUMC
Primary Reviewer: Robin Ingalls			Secondary Reviewer: M. Mazur		

Applicable NIH Guidelines: Section III-D-1-a, III-D-2-a, III-D-3-a, III-D-4-a, and III-E-1.					
<p>Meeting Comments: The goal of this protocol is to study virus host interactions using a variety of BSL 2 human viruses, including coxsackie viruses, enteroviruses, non SARS-CoV2 coronaviruses, and hepatitis viruses (A, C, E). They introduce changes in viral proteins of interest and evaluate the effect of those mutations on various steps of the viral lifecycle. Conversely, they also study cellular proteins altered during viral infections and the effect of those alterations on the susceptibility of cells to infections. They then employ a combination of systems biology and molecular biology techniques to elucidate the details of how those mutations affect viral replication and their disease-causing ability. Work with live virus is performed in BSL2 conditions. A number of cell lines are maintained via culture for viral work. Scientific procedures are described in detail with biohazard disposal outlined appropriately. Lentiviruses are used to transduce human cell lines. Mouse infection studies are also proposed. Personnel are appropriately trained. Waste is handled appropriately. Details for recombinant DNA work are provided. PPE appears to be appropriate for the level of risk. There are no significant changes in this 3-year renewal from the prior approved version of this protocol. ROHP indicated that hepatitis vaccine is available with them and is recommended for all lab members before working with Hepatitis A. The following will be communicated to the PI:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please remove the name of former [REDACTED] employee Dr. [REDACTED] from the room sharing information. <p>BUA Site Assessment: All lab staff members are current on their safety trainings and medical clearances. All biosafety cabinets are duly certified. O-rings/safety cups are available for use with centrifuges. Eye washes/fire extinguishers are certified. Door signs are posted and the Lab has emergency spill kits. Autoclave manufacturer is present in building full-time and provides year-round service and maintenance.</p>					
Motion: Conditional Approval (Admin Review)		For: 14	Recuse: 0	Against: 0	Abstain: 0
		Absent: 0			

3. rDNA/Bhz – Amendment

BUA	(PI)	Title	BSL	ABSL	Campus
2550	Erica Pratt	Development of non-invasive biomarker assays for cancer monitoring	2	N/A	CRC
Primary Reviewer: Inna Afasizheva			Secondary Reviewer: Jim Keeney		
Applicable NIH Guidelines: Section III-D-2-a, Section III-E-1					
<p>Meeting Comments: This project aims to develop new methods for detecting and monitoring cancer at its earliest stages. They design assays looking for molecular and biochemical signals associated with cancer that can be found in blood and other body fluids. They use models like cell culture to re-create the conditions found in the blood to test their assays and validate their performance. In this amendment they are adding recombinant DNA work to overexpress post-translational enzyme activity. They plan to do this by using commercially available non-replication competent retroviral vector. The cloning, transformation, plasmid preparation and other details of the rDNA work is clearly described. The following will be communicated to the PI:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Please complete the Overall experience, where/when experience and related experience questions for [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].					
Motion: Conditional Approval (Administrative Review)			For: 14	Recuse: 0	Against: 0
			Abstain: 0		
			Absent: 0		

V. List of Protocols reviewed by DMR (not discussed in the meeting)

A list of protocols that were reviewed by DMR was displayed in the meeting.