CSU | Institutional Biosafety Committee

Minutes of the CSU Institutional Biosafety Committee
Meeting Date: January 8, 2026

Members in Attendance:

Geyou Ao, Vania De Paoli, Dave Diggins, Nithya Gnanapragasam, Bibo Li, Carrie Millward, Nneha Sakre, Aaron Severson (Chair), Lyubomyr Turchyn (ARF)

Non-Voting Ex Officio Members and Guests in Attendance:

Kaitlyn Harman, Administrative Coordinator, Sponsored Programs & Research

Meeting Convened: 10:02 am via Zoom

Conflict of Interest Reminder

The Chair reminded the committee that per NIH Guidelines IV-B-2-a(4), no member of an Institutional Biosafety Committee may be involved (except to provide information requested by the Institutional Biosafety Committee) in the review or approval of a project in which he/she has been or expects to be engaged or has a direct financial interest, and therefore IBC members must declare any conflicts of interest with protocols on the agenda before any discussion commences. Members with a conflict will be placed into the Zoom waiting room during the discussion of the relevant protocol.

IBC member Bibo Li was PI on an amendment on the agenda and was placed in a Zoom waiting room during the discussion of that proposal. No other conflicts were identified.

Approval of Agenda

The IBC Chair asked if any members wanted to discuss or amend the proposed agenda. No changes were suggested. The agenda was approved by unanimous vote.

Approval of Minutes

The IBC Chair asked if any members wanted to discuss the draft minutes of the December 10, 2024 meeting. No changes were suggested. The minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

Incident Reporting

None.

Review of New Protocols

Investigator: Anton Komar
Project Title: Eukaryotic initiation factor 2A (eIF2A) in translational control
IBC Protocol ID: IBC-2025-002-00n

Project Overview, Risk Assessment, and Discussion**:** The proposed research will use replication deficient recombinant AAV to deliver a rodent gene of interest or a reporter gene into animal models. Work practices, procedures, and facilities are consistent with BSL2 standards, and PPE, decontamination, and disposal methods were appropriate. The transgenes being

expressed do not create any additional risk. Animals receiving AAV will be housed at ABSL1 but kept separate from other animals for 24 hours, which exceeds standard requirements for AAV.

NIH Guidelines: III-D-4

Training and Facilities: The PI and laboratory staff who will participate in the proposed experiments have completed basic lab safety and biosafety training. The room in the ARF proposed for AAV administration is incorrect. The ARF manager, in consultation with the EHS officer and the IBC chair, will assign an appropriate room for the manipulations based on space utilization in the ARF once the experiments are initiated. There were no other concerns regarding the facilities necessary to accommodate the safety and containment requirements of the proposed experiments.

Vote: The committee voted unanimously to approve the proposed research at BSL1.

Investigator: Anton Komar
Project Title: Eukaryotic initiation factor 2A (eIF2A) in lipophagy and aging
IBC Protocol ID: IBC-2025-003-00n

Project Overview, Risk Assessment, and Discussion**:** The proposed research will use replication incompetent recombinant lentiviral vectors (3 plasmid system) for expression of reporter genes and shRNAs to knock down genes of interest in cultured murine cells.

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

Training and Facilities: The PI and laboratory staff who will participate in the proposed experiments have completed basic lab safety and biosafety training. There were no concerns regarding the facilities necessary to accommodate the safety and containment requirements of the proposed experiments.

Vote: The committee voted unanimously to approve the proposed research at BSL2.

Review of Continuing Protocols

None

Bibo Li is placed in the Zoom waiting room

Review of Amendments

Investigator: Bibo Li
Project Title: Telomere functions in genome integrity and gene expression regulation
IBC Protocol ID: IBC-2020-004-02a

Project Overview, Risk Assessment, and Discussion**:** The amendment involves changes in study personnel and addition of new recombinant materials in *T. brucei* that are similar to those approved previously and are not expected to pose new biosafety risks. The amendment also adds experiments using a CRISPR/Cas9 system, introduced into *T. brucei* cells through transient transfection, to introduce DNA breaks at targeted locations in the genome with the goals of increasing the efficiency of transgene integration at that site or triggering endogenous break-repair mechanisms that may be involved in genome rearrangements.

NIH Guidelines: III-D-1

Training and Facilities: The PI and laboratory staff who will participate in the proposed experiments have completed basic lab safety and biosafety training. Lab members who conduct experiments using *T. brucei* are specifically trained in proper handling; however, the lab SOPs for decontamination of liquid cultures must be updated to conform with the current Ohio Administrative Code Rule 3745-570-204. There were no concerns regarding the facilities

necessary to accommodate the safety and containment requirements of the proposed experiments.

Vote: The committee voted unanimously to approve the proposed amendment at BSL2.

Bibo Li returns to the meeting

Notice of Administrative Approvals:

Administratively Reviewed Protocols:

Expiration Date	Proposal ID	Investigator	Title
** 2/11/2028	IBC-2025-001	Anthony Berdis	Iridium-Nucleosides as Theranostic Agents Against Solid Tumors

** IBC administrative review determined the proposed research does not involve recombinant or synthetic nucleic acids and was therefore exempt under the NIH Guidelines.

Notice of Terminated and Expired Protocols:

Expiration Date	Proposal ID	Investigator	Title
** 5/24/2025	IBC-2022-001	Bin Su	Determination of the Efficacy of Novel anti-cancer Agents with xenograft from wild type human cancer cells
** 5/24/2025	IBC-2022-002	Bin Su	Determination of the Efficacy of Novel anti-Trypanosome Agents with wild type T. brucei

** IBC administrative review determined the proposed research did not involve recombinant or synthetic nucleic acids and was therefore exempt under the NIH Guidelines. PI confirmed in writing that the nature and scope of experiments had not changed, so the protocol was allowed to expire without a continuing renewal application.

Meeting Adjourned: 11:30 am