

MINUTES OF THE  
INSTITUTIONAL BIOSAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING  
Southern Illinois University Carbondale  
In-person at Woody Hall Conference Room 355  
February 19, 2025  
2:00pm-3:30pm

**IBC Members Present**

1. Derek Fisher (IBC Chair; gene drive modified organism expert)
2. Andrew Wood (BSO; plant containment expert)
3. Sarah Kroenlein (Research Compliance; serving as minute taker)
4. John Lenzini (Local non-affiliated member, environmental health expert)
5. Jacob Nordman (Human gene transfer expert; animal containment expert)
6. Judy Davie (Human gene transfer expert; animal containment expert)
7. Jose Franco Da Cunha Leme Filho (Plant containment expert)
8. Lahiru Jayakody (Gene drive modified organism expert)

**Other Individuals in Attendance**

None

**CALL TO ORDER AND OPENING REMARKS**

Dr. Fisher (Chairperson) called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM with a quorum present. The IBC has 10 voting members, and 5 members are required to conduct business.

## **APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER MEETING MINUTES**

Dr. Fisher opened the floor for discussion of the November 2025 minutes.

John Lenzini moved to approve the minutes, and Dr. Davie seconded the motion.

Total voting: 8 Approve: 8 Oppose: 0 Abstain: 0

## **ACTIVITY REPORT**

Dr. Fisher summarized the MUAs approved through committee delegation, IBO and Chair review since the last meeting.

## **REVIEW OF INCIDENTS**

Nothing to report.

## **REVIEW OF MUAs, RENEWALS, AND AMENDMENTS**

Dr. Fisher recused himself from the meeting while the committee considered the four renewals he submitted, with Dr. Wood acting as chair in his absence.

Dr. Wood summarized the four renewals and highlighted the key elements committee members should evaluate when reviewing MUAs: appropriate training and qualifications of all personnel; the approved location(s) where the work will occur; accurate description of the biological agents and materials listed; and implementation of adequate safety measures, including containment level and PPE, proper waste disposal procedures, and compliance with institutional policies and applicable regulations.

***MUA#1106 – Elucidating the Role of Protein Phosphorylation in the Regulation of the Chlamydia Developmental Cycle***, submitted by Dr. Derek Fisher.

Applicable NIH Guidelines: Section III D-1-a/D-2-a.

The listed purpose on the MUA is “to determine the role of protein phosphorylation in the regulation of the biphasic chlamydial developmental cycle using biochemical and molecular approaches.” The protocol will use non-pathogenic *Escherichia coli* K12 and B strain derivatives, inactivated *Chlamydia pneumoniae*, inactivated *Chlamydia muridarum*, HeLa and Hep 2 (human cell lines), and L2 and McCoy mouse fibroblast.

**MUA#1107 – *Elucidating the Role of Protein Phosphorylation in the Regulation of the Chlamydia Developmental Cycle (non-dna)***, submitted by Dr. Derek Fisher.

Applicable NIH Guidelines: Section III D-1-a/D-2-a.

This project uses *Escherichia coli* and *Chlamydia* spp. under BSL-2 containment practices. Routine surveillance is not required for these agents.

**MUA#1203 – *Construction of recombinant chlamydia spp.***, submitted by Dr. Derek Fisher.

Applicable NIH Guidelines: Section III D-1-a/D-2-a.

This project uses *Escherichia coli* and *Chlamydia* spp. under BSL-1 and BSL-2 containments, respectively. Routine surveillance is not required for these agents.

**MUA#1505 – *Limonene based edible nano-coating for extending shelf-life of blueberries and strawberries***, submitted by Dr. Derek Fisher.

Applicable NIH Guidelines: Section III-F.

This project will use non-pathogenic *Escherichia coli* strains and an attenuated strain of *Listeria monocytogenes* to determine whether nano-encapsulated antimicrobials aid in food preservation and food safety through inhibition of bacterial growth. Routine surveillance is not required for these agents, but ABSL-2 practices, containment equipment, and facilities will be used as applicable.

John Lenzini moved to accept the renewal of MUAs 1106, 1107, 1203, and 1505. Dr. Nordman seconded the motion.

Total voting: 7 Approve: 7 Oppose: 0 Abstain: 0

Conflict of Interest: 1

*Dr. Fisher returned to the meeting and resumed the Chair role.*

### **DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED IBC POLICIES**

- Policy 240 – PI Responsibilities

The committee made general comments on the PI responsibilities policy. A change was made to align the PI definition with that of the definition used by the Office of Sponsored Projects (OSPA). Dr. Nordman motioned to approve the policy with the recommended edits. Dr. Jayakody seconded the motion.

Total voting: 8 Approve: 8 Oppose: 0 Abstain: 0

- Policy 250 – IBC Member Responsibilities

Committee members had no comments or revisions on the presented policy. Dr. Nordman moved to approve. Dr. Jayakody seconded the motion.

Total voting: 8 Approve: 8 Oppose: 0 Abstain: 0

- Policy 310 – Activities Requiring an MUA

The committee members reviewed and discussed the policy, suggesting changes to the policy section so that the language clearly states all federal agencies and federal regulations that apply to work with IBC regulated materials. Dr. Jayakody moved to approve the policy with the recommended edits. Dr. Nordman seconded the motion.

Total voting: 8 Approve: 8 Oppose: 0 Abstain: 0

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The IBC Chairperson moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:40 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for March 19, at 2pm in Woody Hall conference room 355.