Marshall University Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC)
December 2, 2025 Meeting Minutes
Meeting held via Zoom.
Start time: 2:00 PM End time: 2:53 PM

MU Committee Members Present: Vincent Sollars (Chair), Lydia Bogomolnaya, Price Dickson, Austin Hoffman, Jill Khan, Wei Li, Tim Long, Sandrine Pierre, Mary Louise Risher, Travis Salisbury, Nalini Santanam, Julia Schreiber, Chris Schlenker, Brett Williams, Hongwei Yu
MU Committee Members Absent: Yongke Lu, Angela Richardson, Jagan Valluri
Non-MU Members: Present: Rodney Melton **Absent:** Tim Hazelett
Ex Officio: Absent: Tracy Smith
Admin: Kelly Carothers

I. Review of September 26, 2025, Meeting Minutes

IA. Approval of Minutes.

Hongwei Yu noted that he was listed in both the Present and Absent sections of the meeting. This will be updated to Present. Dr. Yu moved to approve the Minutes of the previous meeting with that change, and this was seconded by Sandrine Pierre.

Approved: For: 14, Against: 0, Abstain: 0

II. Announcements and Correspondence

IIA. BSAA webinar "From Rules to Results: Modern Training for Biosafety Program Success

Dr. Sollars attended this program. The main takeaway is using AI within Marshall's lab specific protocols. He will work with Austin Hoffman to plan a training for January or February 2026 to roll out this information to the PIs.

IIB. Meeting notes on NIH Listening Session on "Modernizing and Strengthening Biosafety

This meeting will be held again on 12/7/25 at 1-3 PM if anyone would like to attend. This session is being used to determine the appropriate scope for the NIH biosafety policy: do they want to expand beyond recombinant and synthetic nucleic acids to work more in pathogens with enhanced pandemic potential? For instance, gene driving technology that can eradicate entire species of mosquitoes, which could be a tool in fighting such diseases as malaria.

Opinions were also solicited in these areas of focus: 1. more attention to categories that require it, such as BSL2 protocols and less to BSL1 protocols. 2. reduce administrative burden while maintaining safety 3. IBC structure and transparency.

III. Old Business

IIIA. Discussion on BSL1 practices with AAVs

Previously passed resolution regarding the change to BSL1 practices from BSL2. Question: For animal oversite, should BSL1 continue or be changed to enhanced BSL1.
Dr. Risher noted that a survey of other institutions finds that most are using standard BSL1, and Dr. Pierre agreed that this was also the case with her contacts. Dr. Khan said that as long as the biosafety cabinet was used, cage disinfected before and after use, gloves were changed, and this was clear in the SOP that BSL1 is fine. Surgeries do not have to be performed in the biosafety hood.

IV. New Business

IVA. Update to Policy for Exemption of Cell Line and Patient Sample Experiments

Dr. Sollars made small updates to this policy , mostly to current name changes, but added wording regarding specific CITI training courses: chemical safety, biological safety, OSHA Bloodborne Pathogens, and recombinant and synthetic nucleotides training. These must be kept up to date every three years. Dr. Santanam wondered if all these trainings were required, too, for the summer interns. Sollars responded affirmatively.

Travis Salisbury moved to approve the updated policy and Wei Li seconded the motion.

The motion was approved: For: 15, Against: 0, Abstain: 0

IVB. Update on SciShield ChemTracker Rollout

Austin Hoffman explained that Marshall is required to have a chemical inventory for safety and regulatory reasons. ChemTracker is an easy to use platform and will be used throughout campus including facilities. Perhaps this can be used as a resource rather than purchasing large amounts of chemicals when a lab only needs a small amount. This could save the university costly spending.

IVC. Lab inspections

Hoffman is currently focusing on College of Science labs. He has noticed that a few PIs are out of date on MURC-required RCR certifications.

Hoffman is also working on EMD visits for broken hoods throughout campus which will be happening soon. Additionally, he is working with ARF and Dr. Khan regarding Isoflurane exposure. In tests so far, the amounts have been found to be below the allowed levels. With this baseline, checks can be made

on a regularly occurring basis. Dr. Khan is procuring equipment which will further assist with keeping this chemical exposure low.

IVD. rDNA/infectious agent applications review (1 new application)

rDNA Application Number	Principal Investigator	Reviewer	BSL	Site(s)
2025-11	Hansol Im, PhD	Lydia Bogomolnaya, PhD; Tim Long, Phd; Hongwei Yu, PhD	BSL-2 and ABSL2	WAEC 2218
Title: Evaluation of *Streptococcus pneumoniae* metabolic adaptation and its impact on bacterial physiology and pathogenesis				
Recommended Biosafety Level:				
Applicable NIH guidelines:				
Meeting Comments: Dr. Bogomolnaya reviewed this application and felt that it was underdeveloped. It was lacking in information regarding lab transport and disposal particularly between buildings, did not fully address training for undergraduates, and there were concerns about masking with aerosolized particles. Tim Long noted that this is the main for meningitis and that clinical isolates can be more virulent. Yu also wanted to know which variants/invasive strains are to be used. Sollars suggested that the application be sent back to the PI to work with the reviewers for the needed changes. **Motion:** Dr. Bogomolnaya moved to **TABLE** the application until the issues could be addressed. Dr. Yu seconded the motion.				
Motion: **Approve**	For: 15	Against: 0	Recuse: 0	

All researchers working on IBC approved research are ensured to be adequately trained to safely conduct the applicable research.

V. Other Business/Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 2:53 pm.

Minutes prepared and submitted by Kelly Carothers