

**Marshall University Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC)**

**February 11, 2026 Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting held via Zoom.**

**Start time: 2:00 PM End time: 2:38 PM**

**MU Committee Members Present:** Vincent Sollars (Chair), Lydia Bogomolnaya, Price Dickson, Austin Hoffman, Jill Khan, Wei Li, Yongke Lu, Sandrine Pierre, Travis Salisbury, Nalini Santanam, Julia Schreiber, Chris Schlenker, Brett Williams, Hongwei Yu

**MU Committee Members Absent:** Tim Long, Angela Richardson, Mary Louise Risher, Jagan Valluri

**Non-MU Members: Present:** Rodney Melton, Tim Hazelett

**Ex Officio: Absent:** Tracy Smith

**Admin:** Kelly Carothers

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**I. Review of December 2, 2025, Meeting Minutes**

IA. Approval of Minutes.

Dr. Pierre moved to approve the Minutes of the previous meeting, and this was seconded by Travis Salisbury, PhD.

**Approved: For: 15, Against: 0, Abstain: 0**

**II. Announcements and Correspondence**

**III. Old Business**

IIIA. Update on NIH regulations

Dr. Sollars announced that the NIH is continuing to review regulations and offer various sessions. When this work is complete, there may be significant changes to the current regulations.

**IV. New Business**

IVA. Consideration of new committee member

Vincent Sollars, PhD, introduced the CV for Dr. Jinju Wang.

Dr. Salisbury moved to accept the new member and Dr. Li seconded the motion.

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

IVB. Lab Inspections

Austin Hoffman commented that he has completed the College of Science (COS) inspections and is moving on to the Pharmacy School. He is finding that while most of the School of Medicine is following the new bleach policy, the PIs at the COS are less aware of it.

EMD has completed all of the hoods with the exception of one in the ARF. That is scheduled to be taken care of shortly.

**IVC. rDNA/infectious agent applications review (3 new applications)**

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 <i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> metabolic adaptation and its impact on bacterial physiology and pathogenesis				
Recommended Biosafety Level: BSL-2 and ABSL2				
Applicable NIH guidelines: III-D-4				
<p><b>Meeting Comments:</b> This application was tabled at the last meeting. Dr. Bogomolnaya had 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. The PI addressed all of those items. In vitro and en vivo practices are all under BLS2 now. Dr. Khan said that if a mask is worn, then eye protection is needed. However, the mask is not needed due to the work being performed in biosafety cabinet. Committee decided to leave the mask guidance as is due to the small chance that if there is an accident, others who might be immunocompromised in the lab are less likely to be exposed.</p> <p><b>Motion:</b> Dr. Bogomolnaya moved to <b>approve</b> the application. Dr. Yu seconded the motion.</p>				
Motion: <b>Approve</b>	For: 15	Against: 0	Recuse: 0	

rDNA Application Number	Principal Investigator	Reviewer	BSL	Site(s)
2025-16	Dr. Vaibhav Sidarala	Sandrine Pierre, PhD; Price Dickson, PhD; Louise Risher, PhD, Nalini Santanam, PhD	BSL-2 and ABSL2	WAEC 4127
Title: Control of pancreatic beta cell physiology by mitochondrial dynamics				
Recommended Biosafety Level: BSL-2 and ABSL2				
Applicable NIH guidelines: III-D-4, III-D-4-A-2				
<p><b>Meeting Comments:</b> Dr. Pierre introduced this application using in vitro beta cells and noted that mice cell lines will be purchased, human cell lines from the NIH, DNA constructs will be purchased from reputable companies, and a replication-deficient adenovirus will be used. Appropriate protocols will be followed. Price Dickson, PhD, recommends adding personnel guidelines for what to do in case of accidental adenovirus exposure. Dr. Khan confirmed that it will be ABSL1 in the animal facility and ABSL2 in the lab.</p> <p><b>Motion:</b> Dr. Pierre moved to <b>approve</b> the application. Dr. Dickson seconded the motion.</p>				
Motion: <b>Approve</b>	For: 15	Against: 0	Recuse: 0	

rDNA Application Number	Principal Investigator	Reviewer	BSL	Site(s)
2026 - 01	Dr. Jessica Childs	Tim Long, Phd; Wei Li, PhD; Travis Salisbury, PhD	BSL-1 and ABSL1	BBSC 414
Title: Using viral mediated gene expression to examine mouse models of substance use disorder.				
Recommended Biosafety Level: BSL-1 and ABSL1				
Applicable NIH guidelines: III-D-4-a, III-E-3				
<p><b>Meeting Comments:</b> Dr. Li introduced this protocol and stated that it was simple and straight forward. The airways involved are not replicant capable so it is considered to be safe. Dr. Salisbury noted that it is BSL1 and nothing in the application required higher levels. Dr. Sollars pointed out that this is a newer lab so all members will need to take the core training programs.</p> <p><b>Motion:</b> Dr. Li moved to <b>approve</b> the application. Dr. Salisbury seconded the motion.</p>				
Motion: <b>Approve</b>	For: 15	Against: 0	Recuse: 0	

rDNA Application Number	Principal Investigator	Reviewer	BSL	Site(s)
2026 - 02	Chatrawee Duanjan Shepard, PhD	Wei Li, MD/PhD; Tim Long, Phd; Travis Salisbury, PhD	BLS-1	CEB 230-232
Title: Appalachian Natural Products Research Program				
Recommended Biosafety Level: BSL1				
Applicable NIH guidelines: not listed				
<p><b>Meeting Comments:</b> Dr. Lu introduced this straightforward application. Worm models and two neuro cell lines will be used with plant extractions. The worm is nonpathogenic and cannot survive in humans or animals. It does not use viral vectors, other pathogens or toxins so BLS1 would be standard. Dr. Sollars added that the personnel will need all of the core training that is required for labs. There was discussion regarding the comments on the application; they are left so the committee can see the process and how questions were answered prior to review by the IBC. That commentary will be removed in the final application document.</p> <p><b>Motion:</b> Dr. Lu moved to <b>approve</b> the application. Dr. Salisbury seconded the motion.</p>				
Motion: <b>Approve</b>	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 2:38 pm.

Minutes prepared and submitted by Kelly Carothers