

Marshall University Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC)

September 26, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Meeting held via Zoom.

Start time: 2:01 PM End time: 2:21 PM

MU Committee Members Present: Vincent Sollars (Chair), Lydia Bogomolnaya, Price Dickson, Austin Hoffman, Wei Li, Yongke Lu, Sandrine Pierre, Mary Louise Risher, Travis Salisbury, Julia Schreiber, Chris Schlenker, Hongwei Yu

MU Committee Members Absent: Robert Hoyt, Tim Long, Angela Richardson, Mary Louise Risher, Nalini Santanam, Jagan Valluri

Non-MU Members: Absent: Tim Hazelett, Rodney Melton

Ex Officio: Absent: Tracy Smith

Admin: Kelly Carothers

I. Review of April 28, 2025, Meeting Minutes

IA. Approval of Minutes.

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

Approved: For: 11, Against: 0, Abstain: 1

II. Announcements and Correspondence

IIA. NIH along with its partners at the New England Biological Safety Association, the Mid-Atlantic Biological Safety Association, Chesapeake Area Biological Safety Association, and the Northeast Biological Safety Association announced they will be holding the first engagement opportunity on modernizing and strengthening biosafety on September 30th at 2pm ET.

Dr. Sollars will attend this listening session regarding the new regulations for the expansion of DURC chemicals. Others are welcome to attend, and West Virginia is one of several states that has preferential admission. Sollars will provide an update at the next IBC meeting.

III. Old Business

IV. New Business

IVA. Consideration of new committee members

- Jill Khan, DVM
- Brett Williams

Dr. Sollars offered to go into Executive Session if requested for the member review. He noted that Dr. Jill Kahn is the Veterinarian of Record and has replaced Dr. Robert Hoyt for Biomedical Sciences. Brett Williams replaces Bruce Day with Research Integrity and is a member of the IRB.

Travis Salisbury moved to approve **Jill Khan** as a member of the IBC, and Julia Schreiber seconded the motion.

The motion was approved.

Travis Salisbury made a motion to approve **Brett Williams** as a member of the IBC and was seconded by Louise Risher.

The motion was approved.

IVB. Lab Inspections

Austin Hoffman, BSO, continues to complete re-inspections of all university labs. There are no major issues with meeting appropriate safety standards.

Hoffman also mentioned early adopters of the Chemtrack system, a university-wide inventory of all chemicals on campus. Since the College of Science is providing funding, all of their PIs are required to use this. It is highly suggested for everyone else to maintain safety.

IVB. rDNA/infectious agent applications review (1 renewal application)

Dr. Sollars has administratively approved a few renewals that did not require committee review.

rDNA Application Number	Principal Investigator	Reviewer	BSL	Site(s)
2022-11 2025-10	Chris Risher, PhD	Wei Li, MD, PhD; Travis Salisbury, PhD; Nalini Santanam, PhD	BSL-2	BBSC 412, 425
Title: Investigating sex differences in astrocyte-mediated synaptic development				
Recommended Biosafety Level: BSL2/ABSL2				

Applicable NIH guidelines: III-D-3-a

Meeting Comments: Dr. Li provided a review of the application to study astrocytes in the synaptic development stage. Risher will be using lentivirus and associated adeno virus to study markers of fluorescent reporter constructs. Each virus handles different sized genes. The lab will package the virus themselves using a standard procedure. Risher has 10 years of experience with this. Plasmids will be purchased from a reliable source. The genes expressed have no oncogenic effects, so risk is much lower. PPE will all be used following appropriate standards and the lab is using normal lab safety protocols. Due to the straightforward nature of the application, Li recommends approval. Dr. Sollars also noted that this would normally be a BSL1 protocol, but they will be using BSL2 procedures due to lentivirus vectors.

Motion: Dr. Li moved to approve the application. Dr. Salisbury seconded the motion.

Motion: **Approve**

For: 11

Against: 0

Recuse: 1

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 2:21 pm.

Minutes prepared and submitted by Kelly Carothers