

University of Massachusetts – Boston

Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) Meeting Minutes

May 20, 2026, 4:00PM- 5:00PM

Zoom Meeting

Members in Attendance: Changmeng Cai (Biology – IBC Chair), Daniel Dowling (Chemistry), Joanna Dahl (Engineering), Mike Pollard (Registrar's Office), Niquel Ortega (Community Member), Phil Cartagena (Community Member), Shailja Pathania (Biology), Steven Ackerman (Honors College)

Guests in Attendance: Ted Myatt (EHE Biosafety Consultant)

Staff Present: Lalitha Adusumilli, Biosafety Officer-BSO (OEHS), Tracey Poston (ORSP)

Scribe: Sarah Phou (EM/OEHS)

Members Absent: Eric Berry (Psychology), Doug Woodhams (Biology)

Quorum: Eight members were present. The IBC needs six members to conduct business.

1. The Chair, C. Cai, called the meeting to order at 4:00pm.
2. A motion was made and seconded, and all in attendance voted to approve the meeting minutes from October 17th, 2025.
3. The Chair noted that the IBC-RMS application is due August 2026, and information should be collected in July in preparation.
4. The committee discussed and finalized guidelines for posting approved meeting minutes online.
5. The committee members discussed the following new protocols for approval.

Skylight Bio

IBC-2026-1A

Evaluation of Ligand-Targeted Bottle-brush Analogue Molecule Oligonucleotide Conjugates for Delivery Activity in Wildtype and Human TfR1 Knock-In Mice

The goal of the project is to use targeting polymeric vehicles to delivery therapeutic oligonucleotides to specific tissues or organs.

Mouse or human cell lines will be used to evaluate oligo molecules in in vitro to understand the impact of cell uptake and gene knockdown.

This registration falls under Section III-F of the NIH Guidelines. Biosafety Level 2 (**BSL-2**) containment is required for work with Human cell lines.

Animal Biosafety Level 1 (**ABSL-1**) is required for housing of mice inoculated with small interfering RNAs (siRNA). Compliance with the OSHA Bloodborne Pathogens Standard is also required for the use of human cell lines.

All training courses required are complete for lab members listed in the registration.

A motion was made and seconded, and all in attendance voted to approve the above protocol.

Kongs Pharmaceuticals

IBC-2026-2A

K119 a small molecule drug treat bladder cancer in a mouse model

The goal of the project is to use small molecule drug to treat bladder cancer(BC).

This study investigates how small molecule drugs suppress cancer cells (T24) uptake of nutrients in mice.

Biosafety Level 2 (**BSL-2**) containment is required for work with all human materials. Compliance with OSHA Bloodborne Pathogens Standard is also required for the use of human materials.

Animal Biosafety Level 2 (**ABSL-2**) is required for housing of mice inoculated with human BC cell lines. Compliance with the OSHA Bloodborne Pathogens Standard is also required for the use of human cell lines.

All training courses required to work in ARCF were assigned to lab members listed in the registration.

A motion was made and seconded, and all in attendance voted to approve the above protocol.

Applied Pathology

IBC-2026-3A

Integrated Toxicology and PK/PD Evaluation of a Candidate Therapeutic in Murine Models

The goal of the project is to evaluate the safety, pharmacokinetics (PK), and pharmacodynamics (PD) of a candidate therapeutic in a controlled murine model.

This initial laboratory application has been approved for the use of lipid nanoparticles, monoclonal and recombinant antibody in murine models. This registration falls under Section III-F of the NIH Guidelines. Biosafety Level1 (**BSL-1**) containment is required for work with biological materials. Animal Biosafety Level 1 (**ABSL-1**) is required for housing of mice inoculated with monoclonal and recombinant antibody.

All training courses required to work in ARCF were assigned to lab members listed in the registration.

A motion was made and seconded, and all in attendance voted to approve the above protocol.

6. BSO noted that three protocols are up for renewal in October.
7. BSO reported that FY26 bio waste volumes were up by 30% - 40%; an assessment will be done over the summer to determine if there is a way to bring the volume down. Committee suggested that more education on general waste and biological waste may be needed.
8. BSO reminded the committee that annual biosafety cabinet certification is coming up in September 2026 and that anyone using a BSC will be contacted by OEHS in the summer.
9. BSO to send out a poll to determine best date for next meeting. Chair suggested that if minimal review is required, a meeting at the beginning of the fall semester would suffice.
10. Meeting was adjourned at 4:49pm.