

University of Massachusetts – Boston
Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) Meeting Minutes

October 17, 2025

Zoom Meeting

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

Guests in Attendance: Ted Myatt (EHE Biosafety Consultant)

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

Scribe: Sarah Phou (EM/OEHS)

Members Absent: Eric Berry (Psychology), Shailja Pathania (Biology), Phil Cartagena (Community Member),

1. The Chair, C. Cai, called the meeting to order at 1:01pm.
2. A motion was made and seconded, and all in attendance voted to approve the meeting minutes from May 2nd, 2025.
3. C. Cai noted IBC-RMS approved until 8/29/26.

The committee members discussed the following new protocols for approval.

Christina Kelliher

IBC-2025-3A

Circadian clock responses to nutrients and genetic perturbation in cultured mammalian cells

Kimberly Hamad Schifferli

IBC-2025-4A

Expression of nonstructural proteins in mammalian cells

S. Ackerman inquired why this is considered BSL2 instead of BSL1. T. Myatt noted extra precautions and C. Cai noted that BSL2 is required for this grant.

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

The committee members discussed the following protocols for renewal.

Kellee Siegfried Harris

IBC-2015-12D

Germ Cell development and sex determination in Zebra fish

Shailja Pathania

IBC-2016-5D

Understanding predisposition to hereditary breast and ovarian cancer

S. Ackerman noted that this is a disarmed adenovirus and therefore not infectious.

Douglas Woodhams

IBC-2019-1C

Biology of wildlife pathogens

C. Cai noted that there is no recombinant material. T. Myatt commented to reconfirm the fungi are not pathogenic to humans. D. Woodhams noted that this is for an undergraduate class. D. Woodhams recused themselves from the vote.

A motion was made and seconded, and all in attendance voted to approve the above protocols with the above noted exception(s).

The committee members discussed the following protocols to be dissolved.

Michael Shiaris

IBC-2015-20D

Microbial Ecology of Enterococcus Bacteria

Michael Shiaris

IBC-2015-21D

Vibrio bacteria in Oysters

L. Adusumilli notes that M. Shiaris has retired.

4. L. Adusumilli notes that the IBC Meeting Minutes from May 2025 have been posted on the UMass Boston ORSP website.
5. L. Adusumilli reported that annual biosafety cabinet certification has been completed and is staying on top of training.
6. The next committee meeting will be planned for January or February 2026.
7. Meeting was adjourned at 1:20pm.