

DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY
Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC)
IBC Meeting Minutes

March 10th, 2025

1:30 p.m.

Zoom meeting

Present: Drs. O'Donnell, Cascio, Cihil and Sweitzer

Absent: Drs. Healy, Barr, Samuel and Yuhouse

1. Introduction of members

- A. The committee has a new chair (O'Donnell) and co-chair (Cascio), so members introduced themselves to one another

2. Update on IBC charter

A. IBC charter

- a. As appears there is no official charter, noted need to contact former chair, Dr. Janecka, or Dr. Barr to ascertain whether there is a Charter document or one has to be created.
- b. Questions on quorum and voting members. Does chair or co-chair vote.

Given that only 4 members are present and membership is limited, it was proposed that updated charter might require simple majority rule on votes, with director recused from voting except to break ties. No vote was taken with respect to expedited review of proposals due to uncertainty regarding quorum. The agenda was slightly revised as only administrative reviews were considered as these are may be approved administratively upon

slight revision without committee vote, though all pending IBC reviews were discussed by the committee for review in next month's meeting.

- c. Discussion on anonymity of comments on Mentor as not always obvious about visible attribution of comments on IBC Admin page within Mentor and some effort may be required to provide anonymity of reviewer ID to PI

3. Discussion of submitted protocols

A. David Lampe - "Toward field-ready paratransgenesis for malaria: bacterial strain optimization and microbiota interactions"

- a. BSL 1 and NIH exempt. Fairly straightforward so could be administratively assessed.
- b. Protocol should include brief description about the scope of the work to be conducted in studying bacteria in mosquitos – please provide summary
- c. Undergraduate students are not allowed in the lab. Should update protocol to eliminate any mention of student training.
- d. Product data sheet for blood?
- e. Is the venom recombinant – should describe
- f. Clarify if any Sharps in the lab
- g. Update protocol to reflect that 70% ethanol is not a disinfectant, must use 10% bleach and then ethanol wipe to prevent rusting
- h. It was agreed by the IBC committee members that proposal could be administratively approved upon the above items being addressed in the submitted protocol and reviewed in next meeting.

B. Jana Patton-Vogt – “Aspects of lipid metabolism in yeast”

- a. Regarded as low-risk (BSL-1 and NIH exempt) and appropriate for administrative assessment.
- b. Provide web-site for standardized protocols
- c. It was agreed by the IBC committee members that proposal could be administratively approved upon the above items being addressed in the submitted protocol at the next meeting.

C. Jill Dembowski – Genetic manipulation of HSV-1, production of lentiviral vectors.

- a. All comments on this proposal (below) are strictly advisory as this was an initial office review (further discussion and vote was tabled to subsequent meeting as uncertain about meeting quorum requirements). Comments will be provided to PI to allow her to address issues before IBC discussion and vote in the following month.
- b. No students listed in protocol
- c. Human cells have to be handled at BSL-2 levels
- d. Lenivirus work is BSL-2, so do not need BSL-2+ but need to clearly delineate what is being expressed in lentiviral system to confirm determination of BSL-2 vs BSL-2+
- e. Summary would help as not clear what is being regulated using CRISPR/CAS system.
- f. How are lab coats sanitized/cleaned?

4. Discussion of future meetings and processes

- A. Given difficulty in aligning schedules it was suggested that a regular meeting be set up. It was discussed that meetings should be the first Tues. of each month at noon as this seemed a time available for many of the IBC committee.

5. Meeting Adjourned

- A. Meeting adjourned approximately at 2:30 pm