

# Syracuse University Institutional Biosafety Committee Meeting Minutes

**Meeting Date:** February 5, 2026

**Meeting Time:** 12:03 PM - 12:32 PM

**Meeting Location:** 020 Lyman Hall and Zoom

**Members Present:** Roy Welch, Chair, Biology Faculty  
Tim Coughlin, Biosafety Officer  
Dave Larsen, Public Health Faculty  
Jessica MacDonald, Biology Faculty  
Rob Doyle, Chemistry Faculty  
Zhen Ma, BMCE Faculty  
Thuy Dao, Biology Lab Manager  
Karen Nardella, Director of Student Health Services  
Becky Ponza, Director of EHSS (Ex-Officio)

**Members Absent:** Tom Brody, Non-affiliated  
Anthony Bianchi, Non-affiliated  
Tracy Crompt, Director of ORIP (Ex-Officio)

**Guest(s)** Tiffany Nelson, Staff, Emergency & Environmental Risk Services

## Quorum Status

Quorum achieved (minimum 6 members required)

Quorum not achieved

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## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from the November 19, 2025 meeting were:

Approved as submitted  Approved with amendments  Deferred for revision

**Amendments/Comments:** None

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## OLD BUSINESS AND UPDATES

1. Tim Coughlin introduced new IBC member, Thuy Dao from the Biology department who works in the Castanada lab as a lab manager.
2. Tim Coughlin called for non-affiliated member vacancy appointment recommendations.
3. Tim Coughlin provided the Committee with an update to the new minutes' template for IBC meetings. Minute template was reviewed by General Counsel and Communications Director. The new format meets NIH requirements. Approved minutes will be posted on the EHSS website.

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## NEW BUSINESS

### I. Review of New Applications

1. The Committee reviewed Dr. Joseph Ditre's new application, 26-001.

#### Summary

The goal of the research is to investigate the effects of different over-the-counter electronic nicotine delivery systems. The study will measure blood nicotine levels, heart rate and blood pressure, self-reported craving and withdrawal, product effects, and patterns of product use. The Ditre group will perform direct-read drug and pregnancy tests on urine from participants to screen for drug use and/or pregnancy at the beginning of the study. Blood samples will be collected and separated into plasma samples by SUNY Upstate staff. The Ditre group will ship plasma to a collaborator. IRB approval is required prior to initiation of experiments.

#### NIH Guidelines Applicability

Not applicable.

#### Assigned Biosafety Level

All research will be conducted in a dedicated BSL2 laboratory using biosafety level 2 practices.

#### Discussion

A motion was made to approve the application as is.

#### Vote

- Approved as submitted
- Approved with modifications (list below)
- Tabled pending additional information
- Not Approved

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### II. Review of Application Amendments and Renewals

1. The Committee reviewed Dr. Yi Zheng's Amendment 22-003A1.

#### Summary

This amendment includes experiments from previously approved application, 22-003.

Developing in vitro models that enable the study of infections in extraembryonic organoid structures. CMV obtained from Upstate will be added to cell culture. Cells infected with CMV will not be passaged, just maintained for up to 3 days. Fixed and live cells will be imaged in 1-040 CST. CMV will be transported using tertiary containment. The equipment used for use of CMV will be labeled.

NIH Guidelines Applicability

Not applicable.

Assigned Biosafety Level

All research will be conducted in a dedicated BSL2 laboratory using biosafety level 2 practices.

Discussion

A motion was made to approve the application amendment with a minor clarification from the PI.

Vote

- Approved as submitted
- Approved with modifications (list below)
- Tabled pending additional information
- Not Approved

Confirm the volume of live virus to be grown. The application lists 500 mL of culture. Is this for live virus or for a mix of cell culture and live virus?

*\*Post minutes update:* EHSS clarified that Yi Zheng will not exceed growth of 50 mL of live virus culture.

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**OTHER BUSINESS**

Not Applicable

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**Adjournment**

1. The meeting adjourned at approximately 12:32 PM.

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**Minutes Prepared By**

Name: Tiffany Nelson

Title: Chemical Safety Manager

Date: February 11, 2026