

Syracuse University Institutional Biosafety Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: April 16, 2026

Meeting Time: 12:06 PM - 12:33 PM

Meeting Location: 020 Lyman Hall and Zoom

Members Present: Tim Coughlin, Biosafety Officer
Jessica MacDonald, Biology Faculty
Zhen Ma, BMCE Faculty
Thuy Dao, Biology Lab Manager
Karen Nardella, Director of Student Health Services
Tracy Crompt, Director of ORIP (Ex-Officio)
Becky Ponza, Director of EHSS (Ex-Officio)

Members Absent: Roy Welch, Chair, Biology Faculty
Dave Larsen, Public Health Faculty
Rob Doyle, Chemistry Faculty
Tom Brody, Non-affiliated
Anthony Bianchi, Non-affiliated

Guest(s) Joe Hernon, AVP, Emergency & Environmental Risk Services
Tiffany Nelson, Staff, Emergency & Environmental Risk Services
Jayson Smith, Biology Faculty

Quorum Status

☐ Quorum achieved (minimum 6 members required)

☒ Quorum not achieved

*Electronic voting of IBC applications and minutes was completed by a quorum of committee members post-meeting (4/24/26)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from the February 5, 2026 meeting were:

☒ Approved as submitted ☐ Approved with amendments ☐ Deferred for revision

*Electronic voting of IBC minutes was completed by a quorum of committee members post-meeting (4/24/26)

Amendments/Comments: None

OLD BUSINESS AND UPDATES

1. Tim Coughlin revisited an application submitted by Dr. Yaoying Wu for use of Pertussis toxin and Complete Freund's Adjuvant (CFA) in his animal protocol. The IBC reviewed and voted electronically. The application was approved on April 1, 2026.
2. The Syracuse University Biosafety Program provides the framework and requirements for possession and use of biohazardous materials at the University. The Program was revised to reflect updates with NIH guidelines and majority of procedural information was removed and will be made available on the EHSS website. The Program will be sent to the Committee for any major feedback to be provided by June 1, 2026.

NEW BUSINESS

I. Review of New Applications

1. The Committee reviewed Dr. Jayson Smith's new application, 26-004.

Summary

The goal of the research is to investigate the neurodevelopmental disorder, EBF3 syndrome. The Smith lab plans to culture human embryonic stem cells (hESCs) and differentiate into motor neurons (MNs) using a previously established protocol. Transcription factor, early B-cell factor 3 (EBF3) will be analyzed to gain insight into human development and late-stage neurodevelopment. A 3rd-generation lentivirus shRNA knockdown vector will be used to transfect MNs and understand EBF3 function. Experimental analysis includes: RNA and protein isolation and quantification and functional assays (western blotting and qPCR). hESCs obtained are included on the NIH Stem Cell Registry and will be acquired from a reputable cell bank. A compliance assessment was conducted by EHSS, BSO, and IRB.

NIH Guidelines Applicability

The scope of this research falls under NIH Guidelines Section III-D-3. Experiments Involving the Use of Infectious DNA or RNA Viruses or Defective DNA or RNA Viruses in the Presence of Helper Virus in Tissue Culture Systems and requires IBC review and approval prior to initiation.

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. Electronic voting of the IBC application was completed by a quorum of committee members post-meeting (4/24/26).

Vote

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

2. The Committee reviewed Dr. Heather Coleman's new application, 26-003.

Summary

The goal of the research is to focus on understanding how plant cell walls are formed and the various internal and external factors which influence their characteristics. The Coleman lab studies genes related to cellulose breakdown and mannose formation. Projects look at how microorganisms impact plant cell wall development in poplar and pine species. Biosafety training is recommended but not required.

NIH Guidelines Applicability

The scope of this research falls under NIH Guidelines Section III-E-2. Experiments Involving Whole Plants and require IBC notice simultaneous with initiation.

Assigned Biosafety Level

All research will be conducted in a dedicated BSL1 laboratory using biosafety level 1 practices.

Discussion

A motion was made to approve the application as is. Electronic voting of the IBC application was completed by a quorum of committee members post-meeting (4/24/26).

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. Pranav Soman's new application, 26-006.

Summary

The goal of the research is to use 3D bioprinting in The Soman lab focuses on 3D bioprinting in two primary ways: cell-seeding and cell-encapsulation. Soman lab prints on hydrogel polymers using human and animal established cell lines. After cells are introduced to the 3D structure viability is assessed. This protocol is a renewal of previously approved application, 22-001.

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. Electronic voting of the IBC application was completed by a quorum of committee members post-meeting (4/24/26).

Vote

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

2. The Committee reviewed Dr. Heidi Hehnly's renewal application, 26-005.

Summary

The goal of the research is to generate and use transgenic zebrafish lines and embryos through the introduction of recombinant DNA and RNA constructs using genome editing techniques. The techniques include CRISPR/Cas-9 mediated mutagenesis and Tol2 transposon-based transgenesis to produce targeted gene knockouts. The lines and embryos generated provide information of gene function during embryonic development. This protocol is a renewal of previously approved application, 22-002.

NIH Guidelines Applicability

Section III-D-4. Experiments Involving Whole Animals and requires IBC review and approval prior to initiation.

Assigned Biosafety Level

All research will be conducted using biosafety level 1 practices.

Discussion

A motion was made to approve the application as is. Electronic voting of the IBC application was completed by a quorum of committee members post-meeting (4/24/26).

Vote

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

1. The Committee reviewed Dr. Rob Doyle's Amendment 25-016A1.

Summary

This amendment includes experiments from previously approved application, 25-016.

The goal of this amendment is to 1) add new lab personnel and 2) update change in location for all BSL-2 materials.

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 amendment as is. Electronic voting of the IBC application was completed by a quorum of committee members post-meeting (4/24/26).

Vote

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

OTHER BUSINESS

Not Applicable

Adjournment

1. The meeting adjourned at approximately 12:33 PM.

Minutes Prepared By

Name: Tiffany Nelson

Title: Chemical Safety Manager

Date: April 16, 2026