University of Toledo

Institutional Biosafety Committee

Date: April 16, 2026

Meeting time: 12.00 pm- 2.00 pm

Meeting type: Hybrid (Microsoft Teams and HEB 233)

Attendees/Roster:

Member	Attended	Voting	Scientific	Affiliated
DeLaSerna, Ivana	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Dinardo, Robert S	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Dudley, Richard	No	Yes	Yes	No
Gray, John	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Kalinoski, Andrea L.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Leisner, Scott M.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Peseckis, Steven M.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Pillai, Mahesh R	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Rohrs, Skylar Lee	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Root, Lisa Jane	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Shemshedini, Lirim	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Shupp, Andrew Charles (Alt)	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Taylor, Roger Travis	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Wooten, Ronald Mark	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Guests : None				
IBC staff: Dissanayake, Ravindika				

Quorum: Present

There were (10) voting members present, and (7) members are required to conduct business.

Call to Order: The IBC Chair called the meeting to order at 12.03 pm

Review and approval of previous minutes:

Dr. Wooten mentioned that the February meeting minutes were previously approved but modified per the PI's request prior to being posted.

Date of the meeting minutes to be approved. February 19, 2026

- **Discussion**: None
- **Motion**: The committee approved the unredacted modified February meeting minutes as written.

- **Votes**: For/Against/Abstain: 10/0/0

Date of the meeting minutes to be approved. March 16, 2026

- **Discussion**: None
- **Motion**: The committee approved the unredacted March meeting minutes as written.
- **Votes**: For/Against/Abstain: 10/0/0

Old Business:

- The committee reviewed and approved the ABSL2 door sign pending minor modification. (For/Against/Abstain: 10/0/0)

[*Dr. Root left the meeting at 12.16 PM, total voting members 9, quorum was maintained*]

[*Dr. Root returned at 12.19 PM, total voting members 10, quorum was maintained*]

New Business/Additional Topics:

- The committee was presented with the IBC policy for renewal, and members agreed to review it and provide their decision via email.

Protocol Review

[*Dr. Peseckis left the meeting at 1.04 PM, total voting members 9, quorum was maintained*]

[*Mr. Shupp joined at 1.06 PM, total voting members 9, quorum was maintained*]

IBC #108670-Renewal	**P.I.:** Dr. David Kennedy	**Training:** IBC Laboratory Safety Training IBC Biosafety Training	**Biosafety Level Assignment:** BSL-2
Title: Microcystin induced hepatotoxicity in pre-existing liver disease			
Project Overview: The PI is investigating health effects associated with cyanotoxins and related environmental particulate co-exposures using approved cell culture systems, animal-derived tissues, and established experimental disease models. The work is designed to assess organ-specific biological responses to environmental toxin exposures and to develop exposure-response readouts relevant to human and animal health. All work is conducted under the containment practices and safety procedures reviewed and approved by the IBC.			
NIH Guideline Section Not applicable. Recombinant and Synthetic DNA are not involved			

Risk Assessment and Discussion

Types of biological materials and hazards associated with this protocol include purified cyanotoxin standards, animal-derived tissues and fluids, human-derived tissues and cell lines, commercially sourced allergen or microbial extracts, primary cells from multiple vertebrate species, and environmental particulate materials.
Potential sources of risk include aerosols, sharp-related injury, and biohazardous waste disposal. The committee discussed the proposed precautions outlined in the protocol, including PPE requirements, handling of aerosol-generating equipment, safe handling and disposal of sharps, and biohazardous waste procedures, and determined that the proposed precautions are appropriate and sufficient for the approved work.

Occupational Health Representative review (if applicable):

- Although saxitoxin is not tier one, it is still considered a select agent, and falls under CDC guidelines, unless it is below the exclusion limit of 500mg, which according to below it is.
- Please address risks associated with all the new cyanotoxins that were added.

IBC vote:

A member made a motion for Modifications required for approval, then Designated Member Review (Chair, Primary Reviewer, Secondary Reviewer, and Biosafety Officer). Another member seconded. The required modifications were:

1. PI does not have an IACUC-approved mouse protocol. Please remove all mention of mouse work or submit a new IACUC protocol.
2. B2 Paragraph 1, what types of tissues will be analyzed here?
3. It is unclear where the PI will use microplastics mentioned in B.1. If they are going to be used, they need to add more detail on where, when, and which organisms and tissues they will use them with.
4. Allergen extract treatment of animals is not in an IACUC protocol
5. After cyanotoxins being administered to the animal, animals are handled as ABSL-1.

Total Votes: 9, For: 9, Against: 0, Abstain: 0

IBC #105349 - Renewal	**P.I.:** Dr. Bina Joe	**Training:** IBC Biosafety Training and IBC Laboratory Safety Training	**Biosafety Level Assignment:** BSL-2

Title: Genetics of Hypertension

Project Overview:

The overall goal of this laboratory is to identify and characterize genetic and physiological factors that causally contribute to the development of hypertension. They will particularly emphasize gene function, gut microbiota interactions, and host-pathogen responses. The research team will use rat and mouse models, human tissue samples, and molecular biology techniques to investigate mechanisms influencing blood pressure regulation.

NIH Guideline Section

Appendix B-II.

Risk Assessment and Discussion

Types of biological/chemical hazards associated with this protocol are as follows,

- rats/mice
- fecal samples (human and rat)
- mouse and rat cell lines
- blood samples (rat and mouse)
- pAAV-FLEX-tdTomato, pAAV-FLEX-mCherry or pAAV-FLEX-eGFP
- Rat tissue(s)

Potential risks include aerosols, viruses, and bacteria from the bedding and fecal matter of the animals. The committee discussed the proposed precautions outlined in the protocol such as PPE requirements, handling of aerosol generating equipment, safe handling and use of biosafety cabinets and determined that the proposed precautions are appropriate and sufficient.

Occupational Health Representative review (if applicable):

- None

IBC vote:

A member made a motion for 'Modifications required for approval, then Designated Member Review (Chair, Primary Reviewer and Secondary Reviewer). Another member seconded. The required modifications were:

1. Please add histology Core BHSB room 007
2. BSL1 only appropriate for AAV virus work (not listed in section E). HEB51b not appropriate for VSV/SARS work. Please clarify whether samples will contain live virus or not. Also, please clarify if AAV and/or

VSV/SARS virus are being used as it would be BSL2 for initial handling of virus

3. Is HEB 51b in DLAR? HEB 051B is the standard rat housing room.
4. Add species to the primary cells collected to Section D.5.
5. AAV should be listed in Section E.1.
6. The NIH/CDC formally downgraded SARS CoV-2 to risk group 2.
7. List risks associated with infection with all included viruses
8. Is there an IRB associated with the UTMC intestine samples? If so, please include IRB in section F.8.1
9. Please list each agent as ABSL1 or ABSL2 specific in H3.4.2.

Total Votes: 9, For: 9, Against: 0, Abstain: 0

IBC #500081-Renewal	**P.I.:** Dr. Tomoaki Ogino	**Training:** IBC Biosafety Training and IBC Laboratory Safety Training	**Biosafety Level Assignment:** BSL-2

Title: Positive-strand RNA viral replication machineries.

Project Overview:

Positive-strand RNA viruses include many significant human pathogens, such as severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus (SARS-CoV), SARS-CoV-2, Zika virus (ZIKV), and dengue virus (DENV). The major objective of this research is to define the enzymatic functions of positive-strand RNA viral RNA-dependent RNA polymerases and RNA processing enzymes, and to provide foundations for the future development of antiviral agents against these viral enzymes.

NIH Guideline Section

Appendix B-II-D

Risk Assessment and Discussion

Types of biological/chemical hazards associated with this protocol are as follows,

- Murine hepatitis virus (MHV-A59 strain),
- Zika virus (ZIKV)
- Baculovirus (Autographa californica multiple nuclear polyhedrosis virus),
- E. coli (BL-21 derivatives),
- Culture cells (DBT, BHK-21),
- SARS-CoV-2 genes,
- ZIKV gene,
- E. coli expression vectors (pET, pQE),
- Baculovirus transfer vector (pFastBac).

Potential sources of risk are through aerosols, needle sticks, and biohazard waste disposal. The committee discussed the proposed precautions outlined in the protocol such as PPE requirements, handling of aerosol generating equipment, safe handling and disposal of sharps and determined that the proposed precautions are appropriate and sufficient.

Occupational Health Representative review (if applicable):

- None

IBC vote:

A member made a motion for 'Modifications required for approval, then Designated Member Review (Chair, Primary Reviewer and Secondary Reviewer). Another member seconded. The required modifications were:

1. Please add radioactivity risks to the SOP
2. Each of the nsp7-16 genes should be listed separately. Genes expressing EGFP, ACGFP, mCherry should also be included in Section D.1.
3. Include ZIKV strain in Section E.1.
4. Vero cells are RG2 and BSL2

Total Votes: 9, For: 9, Against: 0, Abstain: 0

[*Mr. Shupp left the meeting at 1.35 PM, total voting number 9, quorum was maintained*]

IBC #500088-Renewal	**P.I.:** Dr. Zahoor Shah	**Training:** IBC Biosafety Training and IBC Laboratory Safety Training	**Biosafety Level Assignment:** BSL-2

Title: Cofilin Signaling in Hemorrhagic Stroke

Project Overview:

The purpose of the project is to identify novel signaling molecules that play a role in hemorrhagic brain injury severity and neuroinflammation.
The objectives are:

- To use human de-identified brain specimens and perform immunofluorescence imaging for identifying neuro-inflammation and other important signaling molecules.
- To use mice brains obtained from approved IACUC protocols and perform immunofluorescence imaging and western blotting for identifying neuro-inflammation and other important signaling molecules.

NIH Guideline Section

Not applicable. Recombinant and Synthetic DNA are not involved.

Risk Assessment and Discussion

Types of biological/chemical hazards associated with this protocol are as follows,

- Formalin-fixed-Paraffin-embedded Human brain sections.
- Formalin-fixed-Paraffin-embedded mouse brain sections.
- Frozen mouse brain sections.
- Mice brains will be used for Western blotting.

No source of risk with paraffin fixed human brain sections. The procedure will be carried out in biosafety cabinets and using personal protective gear. The sections will be incubated in 96% formic acid for 30 min to minimize the infection from Prion diseases.

Occupational Health Representative review (if applicable):

- Please note that you are not working with brain samples known to be infected with human prions. Although unlikely this is a possible risk of the work. The first sentence of Section F.2.1 makes it sound that you are working with known prion infected samples.

IBC vote:

A member made a motion for Modifications required for approval, then Designated Member Review (Chair). Another member seconded. The required modifications were:

1. Add whether the brains taken from the animals are dissected after perfusion and/or euthanasia.
2. Just for clarification. Is it the University of Washington (in B5 above) or Washington State University (F.1. below)?
3. The last sentence of Section F.2 discusses fixing tissues. Please clarify whether the tissues are already fixed or will be fixed by the lab. Also, please cite BMBL6, Section VIII-H.
4. Please add a sentence in F.2.1 similar to what is found in F.2.2 that the "brain sections might carry prion infections", so that is not suggested that you will be using brain samples that are known to be infected.
5. F.1 indicates that brains from mice will be used. If so, Section F.7 should be yes.

Total Votes: 9, For: 9, Against: 0, Abstain: 0

Biosafety Officers' Report:

- Mr. Rohrs provided [redacted].

Review of incidents: none

Inspections/Ongoing oversight: none

IBC training for members: none

Public comments: none

Adjournment: The IBC Chair moved to adjourn the meeting at 1.47 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for May 21st , at 12.00 PM via MS Teams and in-person (HEB 233).