

University of Toledo
Institutional Biosafety Committee

Date: February 19, 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	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Dinardo, Robert S	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Dudley, Richard	Yes	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	No	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 (9) voting members present, and (7) members are required to conduct business.

Call to Order: The IBC Chair called the meeting to order at 12.04 pm

Review and approval of previous minutes:

Date of the meeting minutes to be approved. January 15, 2025

- **Discussion:** None
- **Motion:** The committee approved the unredacted December meeting minutes as written.
- **Votes:** For/Against/Abstain: 9/0/0

[Dr. Kalinoski joined the meeting at 12.07 PM, total voting members 10, quorum was maintained]

[Dr. Peseckis joined the meeting at 12.08 PM, total voting members 11, quorum was maintained]

Protocol Review

[Dr. Root left the meeting at 12.37 PM, total voting numbers 10, quorum was maintained]

[Dr. Wooten left the meeting at 12.42 PM due to COI, total voting members 9, quorum was maintained. Dr. Kalinoski chaired the meeting]

IBC #500193- New Submission	P.I.: Dr. Mark Wooten / Sneha Singh (new PI)	Training: IBC Laboratory Safety Training IBC Biosafety Training	Biosafety Level Assignment: BSL-2
Title: Pathogenesis of RNA virus infection-induced neuro-ocular infections			
<u>Project Overview:</u> <p>This study is aimed at investigating the host-pathogen interactions of RNA viruses—ZIKV, WNV, and DENV—in causing retinal/eye disease. Since the study team has observed differential modulation of the host transcriptome in DENV vs. ZIKV, they are going to compare these responses in an ocular infection model. The study team will compare the specificity of these host responses using a totally unrelated vesicular stomatitis virus (VSV), which is an RNA virus from the Rhabdoviridae family. VSV is also known to cause eye aches in humans. The study team is planning to use younger mice or pups and immunocompromised strains (such as IFNAR1 KO and AG129). IFNAR1 KO mice are deficient in interferon-alpha receptors, whereas AG129 mice are deficient in interferon-alpha and gamma receptors. These receptors are essential to induce an antiviral response. ZIKV/DENV does not replicate efficiently in wild-type mice. Similarly, ZIKV has been shown to cause pregnancy-related complications and pathology in infants with exposure during pregnancy.</p>			
<u>NIH Guideline Section</u> Not applicable. Recombinant and Synthetic DNA are not involved			
<u>Risk Assessment and Discussion</u> Types of biological hazards associated with this protocol are as follows, <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Zika virus (ZIKV) stock source• Dengue virus (DENV) stock source• Vesicular stomatitis virus (VSV)• West Nile virus (WNV) stock source• ARPE-19 cell line (human retina origin),			

- Vero cell (Monkey origin)
- C6/36 (mosquito origin)
- Microglia (BV2 cell line, mouse origin),
- Retinal Müller glia (MIO-M1 cell line, human origin)
- Primary macrophages (mouse origin)
- Primary retinal microvascular endothelial cells (HRMEC, human origin)
- Human umbilical cord vein endothelial cells (HUVEC)
- Human dermal microvascular endothelial cells (HMEC-1)
- Human embryonic kidney epithelial cells (HEK 293)
- Human brain microvascular endothelial cells (HBMEC)
- Human astrocyte cells (BT169)
- Human microglia cells (HMC-3)
- Primary astrocyte (mouse origin)
- Human retinal astrocytes (HRA)
- Human fetal glial cell line (SVGp12)
- Baby hamster kidney cells (BHK-21)

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):

- [REDACTED]
- Contact biosafety officer to certify lab spaces for BSL2
- Remove WSU and replace OEHS with EHRS in Section B.4
- Use the given Personnel Exposure SOP template as a guideline and fill in with your lab specific information including safety precautions.

IBC vote:

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

1. [REDACTED]
2. Please use the updated FACS SOP for the BD S8 Spectral Flow Cytometer.
3. Please include use of the IVIS described in the animal section and the needed SOP.
4. Infection of pregnant dams is not in the IACUC protocol. Intraperitoneal inoculation is not in the IACUC protocol.
5. Please include in the Frozen Tissue Histology SOP that samples are virally infected with ZIKA, DENV, WNV, VSV, etc. If you are using the core for sectioning this is [REDACTED] If sample will be cut by your lab this cryostat is [REDACTED] Please include these details in the SOP.

6. Please add information on the IVIS SOP as to the virus used in the animals that will be imaged and the process for ensuring that no cross contamination will occur with cleaning procedures
7. Add the room numbers for the confocal microscope
8. Indicate if the anticipated tiers for WNV are low enough to be BSL-2.
9. Please expand on what you wrote below to justify BSL2 work based on amount of virus to be used, aerosol generation etc., all of which are listed in the BMBL 6th edition.
10. Any tissue collected from animals for histology (FFPE and Fresh Frozen) must be included in Section F.1.
11. Indicate the genus and species of ARPE-19 cells.
12. IVIS is not included in the IACUC protocol. Please add to the IACUC protocol.

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

[Dr. Wooten returned to the meeting at 12.43 PM, total voting members 10, quorum was maintained]

[Dr. Wooten left the meeting at 12.43 PM and returned at 12.57 PM, total voting members 10, quorum was maintained]

IBC #500192- New Submission	P.I.: Dr. Shahab Ud Din	Training: IBC Biosafety Training and IBC Laboratory Safety Training	Biosafety Level Assignment: BSL-2
Title: Association of platelet granule deficiency with pathophysiology and clinical features of Postural Orthostatic Tachycardia Syndrome.			
Project Overview: The main objective of the project is to look for correlation between platelet granule number and symptom type/burden. The researchers are planning to assess proteomic differences between patients with normal and low numbers of platelet granules. They will correlate proteomic characteristics of platelets with low numbers of delta granules and clinical symptomatology. The research team will also test possibility of functional dense granule issues if numbers are normal and patients still have POTS			
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,

- Human blood

Potential sources of risk are through needle sticks, and direct contact with blood sample during collection and handling. The committee discussed the proposed precautions outlined in the protocol for collection, handling and transportation of blood and determined that the proposed precautions are appropriate and sufficient

Occupational Health Representative review (if applicable):

- Protocol should be BSL2 as they are collecting human blood

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. Should be BSL2 and RG2
2. Both researchers named will have to take the Shipping of Biological specimens' module from EHRS.
3. Training must be updated
4. Please include information on handling of the samples in the laboratory and state where the blood draws will occur, transport to lab and who will package for shipment. Any additional procedures done with the samples must be included.
5. Earlier in the application it states "The study team will not handle or access any blood samples directly. All blood draws will be performed by qualified laboratory personnel" Please clarify what "qualified laboratory personnel means"?
6. Remove "There will be no viruses, bacteria, cell lines, or animal tissues" from Section B.3.
7. Handling human blood also poses significant risks of transmitting bloodborne pathogens. Please include how the risks will be managed if handled in the laboratory. If you are just shipping directly after receiving it in the lab, include that transport is in a sealed secondary container. If you centrifuge to separated products, please include what precautions are taken when handled.
8. Please update the SOP
9. If blood from "age and sex matched individuals" is being sent out to University of Missouri, that should be mentioned in Section B.5
10. State that the blood draw is done under approved IRB protocol in clinical setting and samples received in the lab/location (BHSB 029?). Samples are then shipped according to Safety and Health guidelines to collaborator for analysis
11. Update Section F

Total Votes: 10, For: 10, Against: 0, Abstain: 0

IBC #104490- Renewal	P.I.: Dr. Zhixing K Pan	Training: IBC Biosafety Training and IBC Laboratory Safety Training	Biosafety Level Assignment: BSL-2
Title: Bacteria, Signaling and Leukocyte Transcription Activation.			
<p><u>Project Overview:</u></p> <p>The inflammatory response to bacteria or bacterial components produced by infecting bacteria involves leukocyte transcription activation and specific gene expression. Pro-inflammatory cytokines, such as tumor necrosis factor alpha (TNF) and interleukin (IL)-1b are considered major pro-inflammatory cytokines during bacterial infections. Although beneficial to host defense at the time of infection, cytokine production, when inappropriate or exaggerated, can contribute to numerous pathological conditions. In the past few years, the research team focused on investigating the key signaling molecules (MyD88 and p38 MAPK) involved in activation of nuclear factor κB (NF-κB) and the resultant inflammatory response by bacterial component (LPS, fMLP), and now they are going to use bacteria (<i>E. coli</i> (O55:B5)) to stimulate monocyte and macrophages cell lines (THP1 and RAW264.7 cells) to understand how inflammatory response to bacterial components and live bacteria by western blot, real-time PCR and ELISA. They will determine the requirement of MyD88, p38 MAPK in <i>E. coli</i> induced NF-κB activation and inflammatory cytokine production by transfection with MyD88, p38 MAPK recombinant DNA in THP1 cells and RAW264.7 cells.</p>			
<p><u>NIH Guideline Section</u></p> <p>Section II-A-1</p>			
<p><u>Risk Assessment and Discussion</u></p> <p>Types of biological/chemical hazards associated with this protocol are as follows,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The vector (PcDNA) and recombinant DNAs • <i>E. coli</i> • Macrophage cell line THP1 • Macrophage cell line RAW264.7 <p>All required biosafety measures, as described in the guidelines of Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories 6th Edition, will be taken for handling and disposing of bacteria, cell lines, and recombinant DNA. These measures include proper cell culture technique in a biosafety cabinet, proper use of facilities, proper use of PPE (gloves, goggles, lab-coat), proper disposal of liquid waste with 10% bleach, disposal of solid waste in tied, biohazard bags into biohazard bins, and cleaning surfaces with 10% bleach/70% Ethanol. As a contingency plan to the management of these risks clean-up supplies are on hand in the form of a Health & Safety spill kit, 70% ethanol. Any personnel exposure involving contact to face/eyes/mucous membrane will be followed by immediate, vigorous washing of the area with anti-bacterial soap.</p>			

<p>The committee discussed the proposed precautions outlined in the protocol and determined that the proposed precautions are appropriate and sufficient.</p>
<p><u>Occupational Health Representative review (if applicable):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contact biosafety officer to certify lab spaces for BSL2
<p><u>IBC vote:</u></p> <p>A member made a motion to Approve. Another member seconded. The PI must schedule lab inspection with EHRS before the protocol is sent for the Vice Chair's signature.</p> <p>Total Votes: 10, For: 9, Against: 0, Abstain: 1</p> <p><i>[Dr. Wooten recused due to COI]</i></p>

IBC #108661-Renewal	P.I.: Dr. David Kennedy	Training: IBC Biosafety Training and IBC Laboratory Safety Training	Biosafety Level Assignment: BSL-2
Title: Use of residual or expired blood products for bioassay development			
<u>Project Overview:</u>			
<p>The project involves the collection, banking, and use of human biospecimens (including blood products, exhaled breath condensate, urine, mucus, nasal epithelial cells, and formalin-fixed paraffin-embedded tissues) to develop and apply laboratory assays for measuring proteins, lipids, enzymes, and nucleic acids. These methods support translational research on mechanisms of disease and potential biomarkers.</p>			
<u>NIH Guideline Section</u>			
Not applicable. Recombinant and Synthetic DNA are not involved.			
<u>Risk Assessment and Discussion</u>			
<p>The protocol involves anonymized residual human blood/blood products (screened and treated as potential biohazards), exhaled breath condensates, human tissues, mucus, and nasal epithelial cells. Potential risks include aerosol exposure during the collection of breath condensates. The committee reviewed the proposed precautions, including PPE and handling procedures, and determined that they are appropriate and sufficient for the safe conduct of the work at BSL-2.</p>			

Occupational Health Representative review (if applicable):

- None

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. Please add a statement of purpose to the summary
2. Update training
3. They say that once the blood sample passes through the FPLC column it should be free of contamination and safe for use outside of the Class II biosafety cabinet. However, to my understanding the pore size of an FPLC column is typically in the 12 to 20 um range - large enough for bacteria and viruses. Can they elaborate on their statement - perhaps they have a smaller pore pre-filter ? I would not consider an FPLC column as a sterilization device. If the above is true, please add content to validate the assumption that there are no viable bacteria or viruses in the FPLC pass through.
4. BHSB 007 is level BSL2 - add tissue

Total Votes: 10, For: 10, Against: 0, Abstain: 0

<u>IBC #108813-</u> Amendment	<u>P.I.:</u> Dr. Rujun Gong	<u>Training:</u> IBC Biosafety Training and IBC Laboratory Safety Training	<u>Biosafety</u> <u>Level</u> <u>Assignment:</u> BSL-2
<u>Title:</u> Pathogenic mechanisms and novel therapeutic targets of kidney diseases			
<u>Project Overview:</u> The objective of this protocol is to study pathogenic mechanisms and novel therapeutic targets of kidney diseases. More specifically, the study will determine the role of melanocortin and glycogen synthase kinase (GSK)3 signaling pathways in the pathogenesis of kidney disease. Amendment Summary: The purpose of this amendment is to add Complete Freund's adjuvant (CFA) as a BSL-2 agent. To understand the pathogenesis of the autoimmune membranous nephropathy and to develop new therapies, active immunization models of membranous nephropathy will be developed in mice and rats by immunizing mice or rats with kidney specific proteins emulsified with complete or incomplete Freund's adjuvant. The kidney proteins will be prepared by homogenizing mouse or rat cortical kidney tissues, and they do not have any hazardous effects during handling or after injections. The kidney proteins will be prepared			

and handled with the appropriate PPE protection for working with BSL-1 agents or tissues.

NIH Guideline Section

Not applicable. Recombinant and Synthetic DNA are not involved.

Risk Assessment and Discussion

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

- Complete Freund's Adjuvant containing heat killed dried Mycobacterium tuberculosis (strain H37Ra)

The risks of using CFA will be risk of severe inflammatory injury following accidental exposure. The committee discussed the proposed precautions outlined in the protocol such as PPE requirements, handling of aerosol exposures and determined that the proposed precautions are appropriate and sufficient.

Occupational Health Representative review (if applicable):

None

IBC vote:

The IBC committee will create a guideline for the use of CFA in animal research and share it with IACUC

Total Votes: 10, For: 10, Against: 0, Abstain: 0

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 describe kidney proteins and whether any of them have any hazardous effects during handling or after injections.
2. Please add the Mycobacterium strains that will be used in the CFA
3. Please state the risks of using CFA: risk of severe inflammatory injury following accidental exposure.
4. Per the IBC, when initially handling CFA, all work should be performed with BSL2 precautions until after being injected into mice. Once confirmed the inoculum is not oozing out then the animal is subsequently handled BSL1. Please note at minimum personnel handling CFA should wear gloves and eye protection and administration in a biosafety cabinet.
5. Please specifically state the use of CFA with both mycobacterium mentioned.
6. Insert a statement to Section G.3 as to how CFA will be utilized
7. H.3.2.1.5. Please add that transport will be in a sealed secondary container.

8. What about the potential for shedding/sloughing at the site of injection? Please address
9. Change to ABSL1

[Dr. Dudley left the meeting at 1.10 PM, total voting members 9, quorum was maintained]

[Dr. Dinardo left the meeting at 1.38 PM total voting members 8, quorum was maintained]

[Dr. Root returned at 12.43 PM, total voting members 9, quorum was maintained]

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

[Dr. Gray left the meeting at 1.57 PM, total voting members 8, quorum was maintained]

Review of Prior Business/Biosafety officers report:

- Mr. Rohrs provided 

New Business/Additional Topics:

- The committee discussed updating the animal biohazard door signs to be more appropriate for the agent. Mr. Rohrs presented a draft of the new sign. The committee agreed to review and approve the finalized door sign at a future committee meeting.

[Dr. Peseckis left the meeting at 2.05 PM, total voting members 7, quorum was maintained]

- The committee agreed to request a PI change on the Study 500178. The current PI is a medical resident. According to UToledo IBC policy, only university faculty may be a principal investigator (PI) on a UToledo IBC protocol. IBC office to communicate this with the current PI and provide guidance.

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 2.11 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for March 19, 2026, at 12.00 PM via MS Teams and in-person (HEB 233).