

UNC Institutional Biosafety Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: March 6, 2024 at 3:15 p.m.

Meeting Type: Protocol Review and Approval

Present: Ryan Steed, Robert Berls, Ricky Hesson, John Finn, Kevin Gibson (non-voting), Marietta Cameron (non-voting)

1. Call to Order: Meeting began at 3:17 p.m. EST
Posting: [Public notification](#) was posted on bulletin boards in Zeis Hall.
Conflict of Interest: No conflict of interest reported by voting members of the IBC for the protocols reviewed.
2. Review of Prior Business: Meeting Minutes from 1/11/24 were reviewed and approved.
3. New Business:
 - All registered [microbiology projects were summarized](#) and presented to the Committee.
 - Two projects registered did not use recombinant/synthetic DNA.
 - Three projects registered were exempt under IIIF-8.
 - Two Projects registered were determined to need IBC review under III-D-1.
 - Dr. Melinda Grosser's research project *Molecular Genetics in Staphylococcus aureus*, protocol # MG-001-2014, was reviewed. During project review, the following questions were examined:
 - What containment level should this work be conducted at?
 - Are the right facilities available?
 - Are procedures and practices sufficient to mitigate risk to personnel, the environment, and public health, in accordance with NIH Guidelines for the type of work described in the protocol?
 - Training and expertise of PI
 - Will students and other personnel receive appropriate training in handling the biological hazards described in the protocol?

It was determined that this project containment level is BSL2. Through protocol review and an inspection of Dr. Grosser's research laboratory, it was confirmed that laboratory design, safety equipment, and standard microbial procedures met NIH guidelines. The project was approved by all voting members present.

- Melinda Grosser's teaching laboratory project *Characterization of Bacterial Isolates from Soil and CRISPR Interference in Staphylococcus aureus*, protocol # MG-002-2014, was reviewed. During project review, the following questions were examined:
 - What containment level should this work be conducted at?
 - Are the right facilities available?
 - Are procedures and practices sufficient to mitigate risk to personnel, the environment, and public health, in accordance with NIH Guidelines for the type of work described in the protocol?
 - Training and expertise of PI

- o Will students and other personnel receive appropriate training in handling the biological hazards described in the protocol?

It was determined that this teaching lab containment level is BSL2. Through protocol review and an inspection of Dr. Grosser's teaching laboratory, it was confirmed that laboratory design, safety equipment, and standard microbial procedures met NIH guidelines. The project was approved by all voting members present.

4. EH&S Update

- Kevin Gibson confirmed that the UNCA IBC was officially registered with the NIH.
- An UNCA IBC website will be created. Kevin Gibson to reach out to the UNCA website team this summer.

5. Future IBC meetings

Protocol approvals are good for three years. The UNCA IBC will meet at least annually to review its charter and other updates as necessary. Additional meetings will be called as non-exempt biological protocols are submitted and if approved biological protocols are modified.

6. Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 3:42 p.m.