

**MEETING MINUTES
INSTITUTIONAL BIOSAFETY COMMITTEE (IBC)
CLEMSON UNIVERSITY
September 9, 2025-Zoom**

Call to order at 1:02PM by the Chair, James Morris. The IBC has 10 voting members, and 6 members are required to conduct business. The Chair votes in the event of a tie vote or a need to have a quorum. The Chair is not voting.

Attending:

- James Morris-IBC Chair
- Cassie Gregory-Staff member
- Sachin Rustgi-Plant Expert
- Daniel Whitehead-Chemical Expert
- Matt Breed-University Vet
- Cheryl Ingram-Smith-IBC Vice Chair
- Kerri Kwist-BSO
- Chris Saski-Plant Expert/Gene Drive Expert
- Bonnie Kelly, Community Member
- Jim Grieger (alternate BSO)
- Rhonda Ryals-Research Security (ex-officio)
- Lesly Pekarek-Occupational Health (ex officio)
- Robin Tyndall, ORC Director (ex-officio)

Not in Attendance: Michele Eller, Community Member

In Attendance ORC: Hope Smith-Sielicki, IBC Administrator
David Huizenga, OGC

Call to Order

- **CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

All IBC members are reminded of their obligation to disclose any potential conflicts of interest. According to the NIH Guidelines, no member may be involved (except to provide information) in the review or approval of a project in which they have been or expect to be engaged or have a direct financial in the project or its outcomes

I. TRAINING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

II. OLD BUSINESS

1. It was announced we are still working with OGC on the new format for the minutes. Once OGC approves the minutes, we will approve the minutes.

III. NEW PROPOSALS- RECOMBINANT DNA FULL REVIEW

III.a Section III-D - Experiments that Require Institutional Biosafety Committee Approval Before Initiation

IBC2025-0160**Haiying Liang**

Title: Genomics and Biotechnology with Hardwood Species
Review type: Full Committee
Designated Reviewers: Chris Saski and BSO
Purpose: The purpose is to apply genetic and genomic tools to improve important crop traits. Our standard approach involves cloning genes from plants and then either overexpressing or down-regulating them to study their functions.
NIH Guidelines: III-D-5, III-E-2, III-F Appendix C-II
Biocontainment: BSL-1/1P
Lab training: Awaiting J. Liu and X. Lu to complete CITI rDNA training
Status: On agenda for Full Committee Review

Items discussed included: This is an on-going protocol from the Liang lab. This protocol involves recombinant DNA work that falls under section IIID.5 (whole plants) and biosafety concerns (RG1 organisms including E. coli and Agrobacterium). Additionally, the work will involve Sphaerulina musiva, a fungal pathogen that causes leaf spot and canker disease in poplar trees. The proposal includes cloning plant genes, over- or under-expression of those and then scoring their impact on fungal pathogen infection. All studies will occur in the greenhouse or lab-pollen will not be expressed. No likelihood of insect transmission due to location of experiments as well as no pollen expression.

A motion was made to approve the protocol pending training completion.

Tally: For-8 Against-0 Abstain-0

Motion approved

III.b Section III-E - Experiments that Require Institutional Biosafety Committee Notification Simultaneously with Initiation

None

**IV. NEW RECOMBINANT DNA PROTOCOLS THAT ARE EXEMPT REVIEW
(SECTION III-F OR APPENDIX C)**

None

**V. NEW PROPOSALS NOT INVOLVING RECOMBINANT DNA REQUIRING FULL
COMMITTEE REVIEW**

None

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Report of Actions was reviewed and accepted by the committee.
2. It was reported to the IBC that the annual NIH report was submitted on August 28, 2025.
3. It was reported to the IBC that IBC PI:
 - failed to have his BSCs certified while using RG2 organisms
 - failed to have an approved IBC protocol for human cell work
 - failed to keep BSL-2 containment in chicken experiments at GSRC

The IBC chair drafted and sent a letter to the PI and his department chair regarding these non-compliance events. Also discussed during this was in reviewing protocols, the IBC needs to be conscience about facilities being used in protocols and making sure the facilities documented can handle the research going on in them.

4. The BSO reported:
 - No rDNA spills or accidents
5. The Occupational Health Office reported:
 - There will be an MUSC-Occupational health partnership

VII. NEXT MEETING

Monday, October 6, 2025 at 1pm

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to adjourn at 1:47pm.

Approved by:

James Morris, Ph.D.
Chair, Institutional Biosafety Committee
Professor, Genetics and Biochemistry

Date