Institutional Biosafety Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday, August 18th, 2025 @ 2:00 PM

Hosted via Zoom
Facilitator: L. Williams (Co-Chair)

ATTENDANCE:
L. Williams, W. Behnke, A. Eldridge, J. Limoges, B. Johnson, and T. Bishop

Guests: I. Shahi and S. Farley

Absent: D. Cummiskey

Introductions

Review of the agenda, and we also have two guests joining us.

Review and discuss Dr. Ifrah Shahi's submittal

- Dr. Shahi provided an overview of her work as a microbiologist. She proposes using Kingella kingae bacteria in her lab-based coursework and research. She would like to understand how this bacteria respond to various factors (e.g., chemicals, environment, etc.) to better understand the importance of the type IV pili in the process. The goal of the project is to better understand the importance of T4P in the process of K. kingae colonization and infection of the human host.
- Dr. Shahi noted that students will create different bacterial cultures and will create mutants. Then the students will transform those mutants into bacteria and perform assays. Dr. Shahi confirmed that this work will not be aerosolized and that this bacterium causes bone infection in kids, but to adults, it doesn't pose a risk.
- The committee discussed PPE considerations, use of a biosafety cabinet for any activities involving aerosol, where cell cultures will be performed, and use of physical laboratory notebooks that will stay in the lab and be later transcribed to digital files.
- An IBC member noted that Dr. Shahi selected "No" in answering if the work would "Use of Human/Nonhuman Primate Material" in the application, including cell lines. L. Williams will ask Dr. Shahi to update the application so the answer to this question is a "Yes".
- NIH Guidelines Section: Section III-D-2
- Risk Group: 2
- Biosafety level: BSL-2
- No concerns were identified by the Committee.
- Approval discussed. All in favor. Approved 5-0-0.
- **ACTION:** L. Williams will notify Dr. Shahi of the approval via a letter.

Review and discuss Scotty Farley's submittal

- Dr. Farley provided an overview of his work as a molecular biologist. He proposes using the common cold coronavirus to study the way the virus infection affects the lipid composition of model human cell lines. He is exploring the question of how these infections rewire mammalian cells.

How does the common cold virus infect as compared to more infectious viruses?

- The committee discussed the detailed SOP that Dr. Farley provided and where the cell cultures will be taking place.
- NIH Guidelines Section: Section III-D-2
- Risk Group: 2
- Biosafety level: BSL-2
- No concerns were identified by the Committee.
- Approval discussed. All in favor. Approved 5-0-0.
- **ACTION:** L. Williams will notify Dr. Farley of the approval via a letter.

General Discussion

- Overview of the mission of the committee (review and approve protocols and develop policies) to maintain biosafety compliance, and discussion of the process of exempt reviews.
- Discussion of posting IBC minutes to bates.edu/biosafety website, and that roster members will be documented online through the National Institute of Health.

Next Meeting:	Date to be determined, as needed.