

Institutional Biosafety Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 3rd, 2026 @ 10:00 AM

Hosted via Zoom

Facilitator: M. Hill (Co-Chair)

Introductions

Review of the agenda, and we also had one guest joining us.

ATTENDANCE:

M. Hill, W. Behnke, A. Eldridge, B. Johnson, and T. Bishop

Guests: C. Fihn

Absent: M. Cote and J. Limoges

Review and discuss Dr. Fihn's new submittal

- Dr. Fihn provided an overview of his work as a biological chemist. He proposes using *Pseudomonas* bacteria in his research. He is focusing on quorum sensing biosynthesis work. The goal of the project is to better understand *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*'s quorum sensing signalling pathways.
- Dr. Fihn noted that students will participate in the research. He discussed that the risk of using the bacteria will be higher in students who are immunocompromised; however, the lab strains are well established with known antibiotic susceptibility. Dr. Fihn described BSL2 safety measures that will be in place, including the use of appropriate PPE, a biosafety cabinet, and proper waste disposal procedures.
- The committee discussed PPE considerations and the transmission of the bacteria (i.e., skin contact exposure versus airborne transmission).
- An IBC member noted that Dr. Fihn selected "No" in answering if the work would require all personnel to take CITI training prior to the start of the experiments. M. Hill will ask Dr. Fihn to require that students take the CITI training as a contingency for committee approval.
- An IBC member noted that the application was missing Dr. Fihn's CV or biosketch. T. Bishop offered to obtain and incorporate Dr. Fihn's CV into the final copy of the application.
- The Committee discussed incorporating as a contingency of approval the following:
 - Require all personnel to complete the CITI training
 - Going forward, this will be a requirement for any personnel working with BLS2 materials
- Approval discussed. All in favor. Approved 4-0-0 (quorum).
- **ACTION:** M. Hill will notify Dr. Fihn of the approval with contingencies via a letter.
- NIH Guidelines Section: Section III-D
- Risk Group: 2
- Biosafety level: BSL-2

Review and discuss P. Schlax's renewal submittal

- Dr. Schlax shared in her submission of the renewal application that the application contained no major changes from the previously approved application (submitted 8/2023).
- No concerns were identified by the Committee.
- Approval discussed. All in favor. Approved 4-0-0 (quorum).
- **ACTION:** M. Hill will notify Dr. Schlax of the approval via a letter.
- NIH Guidelines Section: Section III-D
- Risk Group: 2
- Biosafety level: BSL-2

General Discussion

- The committee reviewed and discussed changes to the format of the institutional biosafety application. T. Bishop provided a demonstration of the application via Google Forms. The committee approved the use of Google Forms for the application. T. Bishop will publish the form and update the website application link.

Next Meeting: Date to be determined, as needed.
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