

Institutional Biosafety Committee Meeting Minutes
Translational Research Center – TR-315
July 16, 2026

Members Present (15): Dr. John Bates, Dr. James Rowlett, Dr. Stephen Stray, Dr. Josh Speed, Dr. David Thompson, Dr. Nathan Campbell, Dr. Laree Hiser, Dr. Jamie White, Anthony Walters, Dr. Harry Pantazopoulos, Logan Cowart, Carla Brown, Dr. Brian Williams, Gretchen Zmitrovich, Sharon Greer

Members Absent (2): Dana White, Dr. Yolanda Griffin

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Meeting called to order by Dr. John Bates at 3:03pm. Meeting held in the Translational Research building large conference room TR-315.
2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Minutes from June 18, 2026 meeting presented for a vote. Motion to approve made by Dr. Laree Hiser with minor change and seconded by Anthony Walters. All in favor.
3. **OLD BUSINESS:**
 - A. **New Registration Updates:**
 1. *IBC-00001177 (Rajbhandari)* - Dr. Bates completed final review and approved protocol registration on 7/15/26. IBC inspection will be scheduled.
 - B. **3-year Renewals:**
 1. *IBC-00001177 (Deer)* – All issues have been addressed. Motion to approve made by Dr. David Thompson and seconded by Dr. Stephen Stray. All in favor.
 2. *IBC-00001067 (Raucher)* – Dr. Bates completed final review and approved protocol registration on 7/14/2026.
 3. *IBC-00001173 (Bates)* – Revisions will be completed by Dr. Bates prior to next month meeting.
 - C. **Overdue Annual Continuing Reviews of Cayuse Protocols:**
 1. *IBC-00001104 (Majure)* – Update will need to be entered in Cayuse if Infectious disease protocol is still active. Dr. Bates followed up with the Division Chief and awaiting a response.
 - D. **Protocol Closeout List:**
 1. Ritesh Tandon – CMB – 2023 – all materials have been transferred to Dr. Stephen Stray. This protocol is now closed.
 2. Eva Bengten – Dr. Bengten has confirmed that she disposed of all pathogenic microbes, *E. coli*, and mammalian and primate cell lines. She has submitted the closeout form documenting disposal. None of the remaining materials (catfish cell lines and hybridomas) require IBC approval. This protocol is now closed.
 3. *IBC-00001077 (Davis)* – All work on this protocol has stopped.

4. NEW BUSINESS:

A. New registrations since last month:

1. IBC-00001192 (Stec) – “Use of AAV vectors” – Review by Dr. Laree Hiser. registration was sent back to PI for revisions regarding funding source, location of biosafety cabinet, cage change policy and IACUC pending approval. Motion to approve pending minor revisions made by Dr. Stephen Stray and seconded by Dr. David Thompson. All in favor.
2. IBC-00001189 (Logan) “Modeling Alzheimer’s Disease in the vertebrate zebrafish to investigate early and late-stage treatments”.
 - a. Review by Dr. Nathan Campbell - Protocol registration was pretty basic. Need clarification of where and how micro injections are prepped.
 - b. Review by Dr. Laree Hiser - SOP missing, funding source needs to be entered and procedure needs clarification. Overall, there are no major concerns.
 - c. Motion to table registration until next month by Dr. John Bates. All in favor.
3. IBC-00001160 (Duan) “A Novel Drug Delivery Platform for Target Ovarian Cancer Treatment”.
 - a. Review by Dr. Josh Speed - Mesh delivery system is used. Questions regarding what will the mesh contain and what animal will be injected. Need to know are tissues/biopsies being used, if so, how will they be collected. The project description needs clarification and how will biohazards be handled and if BSL level will need to be changed. Procedure also needs clarification.
 - b. Review by Dr. David Thompson - Implementation of mesh and post mortem procedure needs clarification. IACUC registration is still under review.
 - c. Review by Dr. John Bates is pending.

B. Three-Year Renewals (DMR)

1. IBC-00001090 (Amaral) submitted on 7/8/2026. Additional cell lines have been added. Dr. Harry Pantazopoulos will review and provide an update at next meeting.

C. Overdue annual continuing reviews of Cayuse protocols: no new business.

D. Protocol closeout list: no new business.

5. PROCEDURES: no updates.

6. IBC MEMBERSHIP UPDATE: no updates.

7. POLICY UPDATE: Draft policy on IBC Duties and Responsibilities was sent out via email on 7/14/2026 for review. Dr. Stephen Stray made some revisions of pages 1 & 2. Some members have made comments and revisions as well. Revisions will be brought up to a vote at next month’s meeting.

8. BIOSAFETY OFFICER UPDATE (Walters):

- ##### **A.**
- Starting Tuesday, July 21st, Allometrics will begin mass inspection of all biological safety cabinets on UMMC campus. Anthony Walters and a designated Physical Facilities staff member will join in

- on the inspections to help resolve any issues that may arise. Dr. John Bates will also be available if needed.
- B. Update on class A Infectious Disease Shipping Certification training. At this time, shipping training is being done at the MS State Department of Health. The certification provided by MSDH requires a hands-on component to meet the standard for certification and is only offered certain times of the year. These factors complicate UMMC researcher's ability to access shipping training. Revised training certification documents for a UMMC-administered Shipping Certification training course have been sent to Gretchen Zmitrovich for review. Per Anthony, UMMC can design the course and provide training on campus if approved by leadership.
 - C. Update on Dr. Kutcher's protocol (IBC-00001087). Due to the location of laboratory E-096, this area is inspected by The Joint Commission. It was noted the Biosafety sign had been removed from the door. The room appears to be in use as a lab and at least one personnel listed on the protocol is no longer at UMMC. Coordination is needed with Infection Control and relevant parties to clarify the situation regarding signage and lab usage in relation to TJC regulations.
9. **OTHER BUSINESS:** MOU between the VA Medical Center and UMMC has been completed and entered in the Contracts system for review. New guidelines from ORD sent by the VA Medical Center for IBC review. The guidelines are also listed in the MOU. The guidelines will be discussed at next month meeting.
10. **ADJOURNMENT:** Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Anthony Walters and seconded by Dr. Stephen Stray. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 3:57pm.