THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI MEDICAL CENTER
EDUCATION • RESEARCH • HEALTH CARE

Office of the Associate Vice Chancellor for Research
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Institutional Biosafety Committee Meeting Minutes
Translational Research Center – TR-315
September 17, 2026

Members Present (9): Dr. John Bates**,** Dr. Yolanda Griffin, Dr. David Thompson, Dr. Laree Hiser, Dr. Harry Pantazopoulos, Dr. Brian Williams, Dr. Belum Tutunculer, Gretchen Zmitrovich, Sharon Greer

Members Absent (8): Dana White, Dr. James Rowlett, Dr. Stephen Stray, Dr. Nathan Campbell, Dr. Josh Speed, Anthony Walters, Logan Cowart, Carla Brown,

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Meeting called to order by Dr. Bates at 3:05pm.

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Minutes from August 20, 2026 meeting presented for a vote. Motion to approve made by Dr. Bates with minor change requested and seconded by Dr. Hiser. All in favor.

3. **OLD BUSINESS:**
   A. **New Registration Updates**:
      1. IBC-00001189 (Logan) – "Modeling Alzheimer's Disease in the vertebrate zebrafish to investigate early and late-stage treatments" – Motion to approve protocol by Dr. Hiser and seconded by Dr. Thompson. All in favor.

      2. IBC-00001160 (Duan) – "A Novel Drug Delivery Platform for Targeted Ovarian Cancer treatment" – Motion to approve protocol pending minor clarification regarding use of PPE. Motion made by Dr. Hiser and seconded by Dr. Thompson. All in favor.

      3. IBC-00001198 (Mouton) - "Role of ketones in mediating cardiac injury" – Submitted on 7/23/26 - Assigned to Dr. Griffin (primary) and Dr. Hiser (secondary). Reviewer comments received; responses were insufficient. Registration submitted back to the PI for revisions.

   B. **3-year Renewals (DMR)**:
      1. IBC-00001090 (Amaral) – "Progesterone Mediated Anti-inflammatory Effects/Potential Therapy for hypertensive disorders of pregnancy" – Motion to approve protocol renewal made by Dr. Hiser and seconded by Dr. Thompson. All in favor.

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2. IBC-00001173 (Bates) – "Immune responses to vaccines and infection" – Protocol approved via designated member review by Dr. Rowlett. No revisions needed.

3. IBC-00001194 (Marquart) – "Bacterial Ocular Pathogenesis and Therapy"- Dr. Bates shared SOP document to utilize in the lab. Motion made by Dr. Thompson to approve pending verification of PPE (use of goggles) and seconded by Dr. Hiser. All in favor.

4. IBC-00001197 (Cornelius) – "Mechanisms Driving Preeclampsia Associated Pathophysiology" – Dr. Pantazopoulos wants clarification regarding droplet exposure to eyes, nose and mouth due to potential route of exposure. Dr. Stray questioned if donors are screened for HIV or other blood-borne pathogens. Protocol registration submitted back to the PI for revisions.

C. Overdue Annual Continuing Reviews of Cayuse Protocols:

1. IBC-00001104 (Majure) – "Surveillance, Prevention, and Education Efforts for Soil Transmitted Helminth Hookworm Necator americanus Infection in Children from high-risk counties in MS" – Continuing review submitted and approved on 8/28/2026.

2. IBC-00001154 (Coats) - "Evaluating obstetric, gynecological, and fetal factors that influence health". Ownership of this protocol has been transferred to Dr. Sheila Belk and the continuing review was submitted on 9/9/2026.

D. Protocol Closeout List:

1. IBC-00001077 (Davis) – "A Phase 1/2 Study to Evaluate the Safety and Efficacy of a Single Dose of Autologous Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats Gene-edited CD34+ Human Hematopoietic Stem and Progenitor Cells (EDIT-301) in Subjects with Sever Sickle Cell Disease" –Dr. Davis is still in the process of getting with the sponsor to determine how to maintain samples after completion of the study. This study is over and all work on this protocol has stopped.

4. NEW BUSINESS:

A. New registrations:

1. IBC-00001191 (Johnson) – "Mechanism Studies of Genes Involved in Hypertension and Subsequent Disease." Assigned to Dr. Griffin (primary) and Dr. Tutunculer (secondary). Reviewed with questions. Protocol registration submitted back to the PI for revisions.

B. Three-Year Renewals (DMR)

1. IBC-00001195 (Vidal) – "Mechanistic insights into, and therapeutic strategies to control, pneumococcal colonization and pneumococcal disease". Assigned to Dr. Campbell (primary) and Dr. Speed (secondary). Reviewed with questions by Dr.

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Campbell, Dr. Speed, and Dr. Stray. Protocol registration submitted back to the PI for revisions.

2. IBC-00001137 (Marshall) – "Research Laboratory and Pre-Clinical Laboratory" – Submitted 9/01/26. Assigned to Dr. Williams (primary) and Dr. Bates (secondary). Awaiting review from Dr. Williams and Dr. Bates.

3. IBC-00001208 (Martin) – "Cardiovascular and molecular changes during influenza virus infection" – Submitted 9/17/2026. Dr. Thompson (primary) and Dr. Griffin (secondary) has volunteered to review protocol and will submit comments for review by Dr. Bates.

C. Overdue annual continuing reviews of Cayuse protocols:

1. IBC-00001070 (Stray) "Developing New Antiviral Therapies for Influenza and Cytomegalovirus and Using influenza virus as an Agent to Fight Cancer" – Continuing review was due on 8/21/26. Investigator has been notified that continuing review is overdue. No committee action needed at this time.

D. Protocol closeout list: no new business.

5. PROCEDURES: no updates.

6. IBC MEMBERSHIP UPDATE: Dr. Bulem Tutunculer was introduced in today's meeting as an IBC member from the School of Dentistry.

7. POLICY UPDATE: no updates.

8. BIOSAFETY OFFICER UPDATE (Walters):

A. Inspection of Dr. Natarajan's lab was completed on 9/11/2026.

B. Currently working with Dr. Naylor and the OAVCR to address biosecurity concerns within the research areas.

C. Purchase Orders for remediation of the cooler in G316 has been approved. Work is expected to begin soon.

D. We are in the open window for Joint Commission inspection, so any IBC registered lab within clinical and patient care space can, and most likely will, be visited by TJC.

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E. We have approval for an institutional backed Category A/Dry Ice Packing and Shipping Training, that is being developed and tentative plans to start offering that beginning as early as November and January at the latest.

9. **OTHER BUSINESS:** The committee discussed the proposed changes to the NIH's Biosafety Policy for Research. Dr. Bates will work with the Office of the Associate Vice Chancellor for Research to submit comments to the NIH before the comment window closes in October.

10. **ADJOURNMENT:** Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Dr. Thompson and seconded by Dr. Griffin. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 4:05pm.