

INSTITUTIONAL BIOSAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES

January 15, 2026, 1:00 PM

Name	IBC Office	Mar 20	Apr 17	May 15	Jun 26	Jul 22	Aug 21	Sep 18	Oct 16	Nov 20	Dec 11	Jan 15
Virginia Sykes	Biosafety Officer, EHS	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Dr. Michael McVoy	Chair, Scientist, Virologist	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X
David J. Montefusco	Vice Chair, Scientist, Biochemistry	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Michael Elliott	Non-Affiliated	X	X	X	X		X		X	X	X	X
Dr. Michael Maceyka ^r	Former Biosafety Officer, EHS	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
Dr. Priscilla Hwang	Scientist, Biomedical Engineering	X	X	X			X	X		X		X
Dr. Devanand Sarkar	Scientist, Molecular Genetics	X	X		X	X	X	X	X		X	X
Nicky Rose	Non-Affiliated	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X		X
Laurence Mendoza [*]	Lab Safety Officer, EHS	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
Dr. Edward Crawford ^r	Scientist, Life Sciences	X	X	X		X	X	X	X			
Charles Hall ^{**}	CAR-T specialist, Immunotherapy and Transplant	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X
Peter Landsman [^]	IBC Coordinator	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Rob Nelms	Animal Expert, DAR Operations	X		X	X	X			X	X		X
Joe Yannie [^]	Laboratory Safety Specialist, EHS	X	X	X	X			X	X			X
Sophie Makharita [^]	Biosafety Specialist, EHS	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X
Lauren Wallace	Director of Clinical Research Regulatory Affairs, OVPRI	X		X			X	X	X	X		X

* Alternate member, X attended meeting, ^ non-voting member, c cancelled meeting, r retired member, ** ad hoc member

I. Introduction of Members and Guests: A quorum of eight full voting members was present, as was one alternate voting member for a total of nine voters. One full voting member was absent. Jimmy Spencer, Associate Director of VCU Environmental Health and Safety, attended as a guest.

II. Review of Minutes from December 11, 2025, Meeting and Vote on Posting Redacted Minutes: The IBC reviewed and discussed a redacted version of the meeting minutes corresponding to the IBC's December 11, 2025, meeting. The IBC members determined that the redacted minutes were appropriate for public distribution and unanimously voted to approve the posting of the redacted minutes on the IBC's website. The IBC coordinator indicated that the approved minutes were likely to be posted and available on the IBC's website by close of business on January 21, 2026.

III. Ongoing Program Updates

A. Update on Previously Reviewed rDNA Protocol MUAs and BioRAFT Registrations:

1. Dr. Swati Deb: *“(1) Identification of novel p53 pathway-related therapeutic approaches for cancer treatment; (2) The investigation of novel biomarkers and targeted gene therapy in lung tumorigenesis”* BioRAFT major revision. Conditionally approved 12/11/25. Approval conditions subsequently met and full approval granted.

B. rDNA Protocols, New Reviews:

1. Dr. Lisa Denzin and Dr. Derek Sant'Angelo: *“(1) Antigen Processing and Presentation - The role of H2-O and H2-M in modulating immune responses to viruses; (2) T Cells - Transcriptional control of T cell development and function”* BioRAFT new registration, [REDACTED]. A BSL-2+/ABSL-2 group of studies falling under sections III-D and III-E of the NIH guidelines. The committee discussed the registration, and reviewed the Denzin and Sant'Angelo laboratory's BioRAFT entry as well as additional documents provided by laboratory staff. The committee determined that the Denzin and Sant'Angelo laboratory's registration complied with the majority of applicable laws, regulations, and VCU policies, but required some minor revisions in order to be fully approved. Specifically, the committee noted that the registration's summary sections needed to be revised to focus solely on the registration's biosafety precautions, the registration's Rooms and Spaces sections needed to be updated to include all storage locations, the registration's Usage Summary needed to be updated to reflect the laboratory's use of viruses, the registration needed to be revised to indicate that helper viruses were not being used, the laboratory needed to provide details on its use of EBV, the laboratory

needed to clarify whether the MT-2 cells being used produce infectious HTLV-1, and the laboratory needed to list all tissues being used in the registration's tissues table. 9 of 9 IBC voters present voted to grant the registration approval contingent upon the laboratory making the revisions specified above. The committee designated VCU's Biosafety Office and the IBC Chair as the entities authorized to determine when the registration's approval conditions were met.

C. Three-Year Renewals/Major Revisions:

- 1. Dr. Rene Olivares-Navarrete:** "*Engineering strategies for craniofacial and musculoskeletal repair*" BioRAFT major revision, [REDACTED]. A BSL-2+/ABSL-2 study falling under section III-D of the NIH guidelines. The committee discussed the registration, and reviewed the Olivares-Navarrete laboratory's BioRAFT entry as well as additional documents provided by laboratory staff. The committee determined that the Olivares-Navarrete laboratory's registration complied with the majority of applicable laws, regulations, and VCU policies, but required some minor revisions in order to be fully approved. Specifically, the committee noted that the registration's Recombinant or Synthetic Nucleic Acid Molecules Survey needed to be revised to provide information on the laboratory's use of whole animals, references to the use of shRNA needed to be removed because the lab had switched to using CRISPR, the registration's plasmids table needed to be updated to include all plasmids being used, a duplicate Viral Vector Registration Form for pLKO.1-puro needed to be removed from the registration, the genes being used needed to be included in all of the registration's Viral Vector Registration Forms, and the Viral Vector Registration Form for pLKO.1-puro needed to be revised to indicate that the viral vector had undergone changes to its natural host range or tropism. 9 of 9 IBC voters present voted to grant the registration approval contingent upon the laboratory making the revisions specified above. The committee designated VCU's Biosafety Office and the IBC Chair as the entities authorized to determine when the registration's approval conditions were met.
- 2. Dr. Kimberle Jacobs:** "*(1) Functional effects of mild traumatic brain injury; (2) Epileptogenic Mechanisms in experimentally induced microgyria; (3) Seizure mechanisms in Temporal lobe epilepsy with developmental malformations*" BioRAFT 3-year renewal, [REDACTED]. A BSL-2/ABSL-2 group of studies falling under sections III-D and III-E of the NIH guidelines. The committee discussed the registration, and reviewed the Jacobs laboratory's BioRAFT entry as well as additional documents provided by laboratory staff. The committee determined that the Jacobs laboratory's registration complied with the majority of applicable laws, regulations, and VCU policies, but required some minor revisions in order to be fully

approved. Specifically, the committee noted that the registration's summary sections needed to be revised to focus solely on the registration's biosafety precautions, the summary of project #1 needed to include information on the oncogenic potential of the plasmids being used, the registration's equipment section needed to be updated to include information about the biosafety cabinet being used, the biosafety level applicable to project #1 needed to be raised from BSL-2 to BSL-2+ due to the use of AAV expressing an oncogene, the animal table in the registration's Recombinant or Synthetic Nucleic Acid Molecules Survey needed to be updated to provide information on how the laboratory's animals were acquired, the answers in the Recombinant or Synthetic Nucleic Acid Molecules Survey needed to be revised to reflect the laboratory's use of AAV encoding a human oncogene, the summary for project #3 needed to be updated to include language related to absorption and the use of cut-resistant gloves, the cell lines table needed to be updated to include all cell lines being used, and the registration's AAV Viral Vector Registration Form needed to be updated to reflect the accurate biosafety level applicable to the project. 9 of 9 IBC voters present voted to grant the registration approval contingent upon the laboratory making the revisions specified above. The committee designated VCU's Biosafety Office and the IBC Chair as the entities authorized to determine when the registration's approval conditions were met.

3. **Dr. Can Senkal:** "*Regulation of ceramide synthase by protein-protein interaction*" BioRAFT 3-year renewal, [REDACTED]. A BSL-2+/ABSL-2 study falling under sections III-D, III-E, and III-F of the NIH guidelines. The committee discussed the registration, and reviewed the Senkal laboratory's BioRAFT entry as well as additional documents provided by laboratory staff. The committee unanimously agreed that the documentation provided was sufficient to show that the registration was compliant with all applicable biosafety-related laws, regulations, and VCU policies. As a result, 9 of 9 IBC voters present voted to grant the registration full approval without required revisions.

D. Other rDNA Concerns/Administrative Approvals:

1. **Dr. Khalid Matin:** "[HM300000165] *NSABP-FC-13: Phase II Platform Study to Evaluate Treatment with Cemiplimab Monotherapy or Cemiplimab plus Fianlimab or Other Novel Combinations in Patients with Colorectal Cancer with Minimal Residual Disease Following Definitive Surgery and Chemotherapy (EMPIRE)*" Review of a novel pharmaceutical product. Administratively approved 12/12/25.
2. **Dr. Thokozeni Lipato:** "[HM300000672] *Phase 2a, Multicenter, Randomized, Double-blind, Placebo-controlled Study to Assess the Safety of Anumigilimab*

(CSL324) in Adults with Sickle Cell Disease” Review of a novel pharmaceutical product. Administratively approved 12/18/25.

IV. Old Business: N/A

V. New Business:

A. Discussion of Fume Hood and Biosafety Cabinet: Larry Mendoza informed the committee that VCU’s Institute for Drug and Alcohol Studies was performing experiments involving the collection of blood samples from a high-risk population. Once collected, the blood was put into a centrifuge and some of the centrifuged blood was then used to run experiments. Based on the nature of the experiments, VCU biosafety staff informed the Institute for Drug and Alcohol Studies that there was a risk of aerosolization of pathogens, depending on the contents of the blood. As a result, biosafety staff required Institute personnel to wear fitted N95 masks or to perform their experiments in a biosafety cabinet. The Institute purchased a fume hood with a HEPA filter, and inquired about whether performing its experiments in the fume hood was sufficient to avoid the need for N95 masks or a biosafety cabinet. The committee discussed the issue and unanimously found that using the fume hood was insufficient to allow work to continue without a fitted N95 mask or a biosafety cabinet.

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting adjourned at approximately 2:59 PM. The next IBC meeting is scheduled for 1:00 PM, February 19, 2026.