



GW Institutional Biosafety Committee Meeting

Date: 06/25/2025

4:00 PM

Zoom

Members Present:

T. Bobo, P. Brindley, M. Firmani, M. Ghosh, L. Hopkins, A. Papa, J. Prigge, D. Shuai,

Members Absent:

L. Dubrovsky, K. Michel, A. Villagra

Staff Present:

I. Hooper

Minutes

I. Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 4:04 PM once we had quorum.

II. Previous meeting minutes: The minutes of the May 21, 2025 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Total votes For:	8	Total votes Absent:	3	Against:	0
Conflict of Interest:	0	Not present For Vote:	0	Abstained:	0

III. Other business

Invited guests: Drs. Watkins & Chang

Invited guests present: Juan Alzate (Dr. Chang's lab) & Ben Wardwell (Dr. Watkins' lab) *guests were dismissed at 4:35pm*

Incident reporting: There were no incidents to report since the May 21, 2025

meeting.

Protocols approved since last meeting: New Protocols: #25-271 (Cheng), #25-291 (McCaffrey), & #25-272 (Miller)

New Business discussed:

- Dr. Chang's protocol #25-294
- Dr. Ghosh's protocol #25-296
- Dr. Watkins' protocol #25-295
- The IBC administrator reminded the committee about the NIH Implementation Update: Posting of IBC Minutes & Rosters
- **Approved Amendments:**
 - 3 amendments were administratively approved
- **Approved Annual Reviews:**
 - 4 annual reviews were administratively approved
- **Approved Terminations:**
 - 1 protocol termination was administratively approved

Next Meeting: July 16, 2025

Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at 5:20 PM

Minutes taken by: IBC Administrator

III. Submission Review

New Protocols:

Principal Investigator:	Aileen Chang, MD, MSPH
IBC #	IBC-25-294
Study Title:	Pilot Clinical Evaluation of the BioFire Emerging Coronavirus Panel
Category:	N/A
BSL:	2
ABSL:	N/A
Enhanced:	No
Submission Outcome:	Conditionally Approved (Administrative Review)
Notes:	

Summary of Dr. Chang's research: The goal of this research is to test patient samples using the BioFire Emerging Coronavirus (ECoV) Panel. This system will be used to quickly identify different coronaviruses from nasal swab samples.

Committee discussion about Dr. Chang's protocol: The designated reviewers presented their review. There were only a few stipulations and minor comments from the committee. It was noted that training needed to be updated for some personnel. A reviewer recommended the use disposable tie-back lab coats instead the cloth button down lab coats. The committee also noted that additional detail was needed for containment of aerosol generating procedures. Lastly, the committee needed clarification regarding whether leftover samples will be stored in the lab or if everything will be shipped to BioFire.

Motion: To conditionally approve (administrative review) pending the completion of the requested revisions listed in the iRIS system.

Total votes For: 8 **Total votes Absent:** 3 **Against:** 0
Conflict of Interest: 0 **Not present For Vote:** 0 **Abstained:** 0

Principal Investigator:	Mimi Ghosh, PhD
IBC #	IBC-25-296
Study Title:	Determining immune correlates of Covid-19
Category:	N/A
BSL:	2
ABSL:	N/A
Enhanced:	No
Submission Outcome:	Conditionally Approved (Administrative Review)
Notes:	Dr. Ghosh recused herself from meeting during the committee discussion

Summary of Dr. Ghosh's research: The goal of this research is to test mucosal viral shedding and immune correlates of SARS CoV2 infected individuals. The lab utilizes a repository of biological samples collected from two different sources (infected individuals and never infected individuals) One of their GW collaborators will coordinate sample collection from symptomatic individuals seen at the GW hospital during and after the pandemic. Another GW collaborator will process and bank acute infection samples in their lab. The acute infectious samples consist of blood, nasopharyngeal swabs, oral swabs, penile/vaginal swabs, and rectal swabs. Samples will be collected during the acute stages followed by 2, 6, and 12 months later. Samples from individuals never infected with SARS CoV2 were nose and mouth swabs from the GW community. All biological data will be correlated with demographic (e.g. age, race), behavioral (e.g. smoking) and clinical (e.g. severity of symptoms).

Committee discussion about Dr. Ghosh's protocol: The designated reviewers presented their review. There were only a few stipulations and minor comments. It was confirmed that training for all personnel was completed and current. A reviewer noted that the primary cells and cell lines section should be completed since Calu-3 cell lines will be used. For decontamination, a reviewer noted that the use of freshly prepared bleach must if stabilized bleach will not be used. In addition waste handling needed a little more detail and additional routes of transmission needed to be selected for an entry in the infectious material section.

Motion: To conditionally approve (administrative review) pending the completion of the requested revisions listed in the iRIS system.

Total votes For: 8 **Total votes Absent:** 3 **Against:** 0
Conflict of Interest: 0 **Not present For Vote:** 0 **Abstained:** 0

Principal Investigator:	David Ian Watkins, PhD
IBC #	IBC-25-295
Study Title:	THE FUNCTIONAL SIGNIFICANCE OF CTL ESCAPE
Category:	
BSL:	
Enhanced:	
Submission Outcome:	Tabled until the next meeting and major revisions are made.
Notes:	

Summary of Dr. Watkins' research: The lab will investigate vaccine-induced antibody responses and innate immune responses associated with the control of SIVmac239 replication in non-human primates. If they are successful in defining the nature and the targets of these antibodies and the novel innate immune response pathways involved in viral control, incorporating this information into vaccine design may facilitate the eventual development of an HIV vaccine.

Committee discussion about Dr. Watkins' protocol: The designated reviewers presented their review to the committee. It was confirmed that the Wisconsin Primate Center has an approved IACUC protocol for the non-human primate work. A reviewer questioned whether an MOU was needed for this collaboration. It was agreed that the Office of Research Safety would contact the GW IACUC administrator to confirm. Training needed to be updated for some personnel listed on the protocol. Both reviewers noted clarification was needed regarding the use of human samples. The committee also agreed that more detail was needed in the description of experiments and clarification regarding which techniques were actually being performed in the lab. In addition the committee agreed the protocol would be easier to follow if it was divided into multiple protocols. Due to inconsistencies in the protocol the committee was unable to fully complete the review and voted to table the submission. The IBC Chair and the Office of Research Safety agreed to assist the lab with their resubmission.

Motion: To table until the next meeting and major revisions are made.

Total votes For: 8 **Total votes Absent:** 3 **Against:** 0
Conflict of Interest: 0 **Not present For Vote:** 0 **Abstained:** 0