

Institutional Biosafety Committee Meeting Minutes
Translational Research Center – TR-315
August 20, 2026

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

Members Absent (2): Dana White, Dr. James Rowlett

Guests Present (1): Dr. Jennifer Naylor

- 1. CALL TO ORDER:** Meeting called to order by Dr. John Bates at 3:04pm. Jennifer Naylor was introduced as the new Senior Director of Research Operations and will be attending some IBC meetings.
- 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Minutes from July 16, 2026 meeting presented for a vote. Motion to approve made by Dr. Stephen Stray with minor change and seconded by Dr. David Thompson. 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” – Protocol is pending with PI for review and revisions.
 2. IBC-00001160 (Duan) – “A Novel Drug Delivery Platform for Targeted Ovarian Cancer treatment” – Protocol is pending with PI for review and revisions.
 - B. 3-year Renewals (DMR):**
 1. IBC-00001090 (Amaral) – “Progesterone Mediated Anti-inflammatory Effects/Potential Therapy for hypertensive disorders of pregnancy” – Protocol is pending with PI for review and revisions.
 2. IBC-00001173 (Bates) – “Immune responses to vaccines and infection” – Still under review.
 - 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” – Neither Dr. Majure nor his Division Chief has responded to e-mail from Dr. Bates. The committee agreed that the matter should be brought to the attention of Dr. Majure’s department chair.

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” – We are still waiting on Dr. Davis to determine what will happen to samples remaining 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-00001198 (Mouton) – “Role of Ketones in mediating Cardiac Injury”
 - a. Primary review by Dr. Yolanda Griffin: This protocol involves using adeno-associated virus to study cardiac injury outcome in mice. Safety manual material information was great but lab specific procedures of how the virus is handled and being injected into the mice needs to be clarified. Transportation procedure will also need to be clarified.
 - b. Secondary review by Dr. Laree Hiser: Information is needed as to how will the AAV be transported from G364 to G066. The primary contact should be listed in the registration as well.
 - c. Review by Anthony Walters: More information is needed before protocol can be approved.

B. Three-Year Renewals (DMR)

1. IBC-00001194 (Marquart) – “Bacterial Ocular Pathogenesis and Therapy” – Dr. John Bates and Dr. Jamie White were selected to review protocol. Due to Dr. White’s resignation from the committee, Dr. Stephen Stray will provide a primary review.
 - a. Review by Dr. John Bates: Protocol returned to PI for a number of revisions. The most substantial reason is the old standard plan which consist of a 2-page document that does not specify any lab hazards or how they will be handled. Dr. Bates shared his lab specific plan for review to provide an idea of how to complete. PI is still working on revisions.
2. IBC-00001197 (Cornelius) – “Mechanisms Driving Preeclampsia Associated Pathophysiology” – Due to Dr. White’s resignation, Dr. Stephen Stray will provide a primary review and Dr. Yolanda Griffin will provide a secondary review.

C. Overdue annual continuing reviews of Cayuse protocols:

1. IBC-00001154 (Coats) “Evaluating Obstetric, Gynecological and fetal factors that influence Health” – Dr. Coats has moved to Auburn University. Consequently, she is no longer the investigator for this project. Continuing review is now overdue. Dr. Campbell stated that these studies are likely to continue under a different investigator and that the protocol will need to be transferred to a different faculty member.

D. Protocol closeout list: no updates

5. PROCEDURES: no updates.

6. **IBC MEMBERSHIP UPDATE:** Dr. Jamie White resigned from the committee, effective 8/20/2026. Dr. Griggs, Associate Dean for Research in the School of Dentistry, recommended three faculty members in the SOD who are willing to serve on the IBC. Dr. Bates will recommend one of these individuals to Dr. Bidwell for him to consider for membership on the committee.

7. **POLICY UPDATE:** The committee voted on approve the draft IBC Duties and Responsibilities policy. The first draft of this policy was written by Dr. Bates and distributed to the committee for review on 5/27/2028. Several committee members suggested revisions, and a revised document was distributed to the committee in advance of the meeting.

8. BIOSAFETY OFFICER UPDATE (Walters):

- A. An unauthorized person entered the Guyton-Hall complex, vandalized some non-laboratory space, and committed petty theft. Subsequently, a magnetic lock on an exterior door was found to be malfunctioning. The lock was fixed quickly after the issue was reported. Anthony Walters will meet with Campus Police on 8/21/26 to discuss in detail.
- B. Janitorial staff sometimes use wet floor signs to prop open doors leading from the Classroom Wing into the Hall building. Staff have have been counseled that this compromises the security of the Guyton-Hall complex. Anthony Walters is elevating this issue within Environmental Health and Safety.
- C. Biosafety cabinet update: Allometrics completed all inspections. Several cabinets failed inspection due to missing alarms and needed filter replacements. Fixes are in process for these cabinets. Canopies located on the 7th floor of the Guyton building were also replaced.

D. IBC Inspection: Dr. Niraker Rajbhandari inspected was completed on 8/19/2026.

9. OTHER BUSINESS:

- A.** The difficulties related to close out of protocol IBC-00001077 prompted a discussion of how to handle registered materials that are stored after expiration of a biosafety protocol. The issue is complex. It extends to the contractual agreements between UMMC and study sponsors and involves ongoing costs associated with proper storage of some samples. Transferring samples to the UMMC Biobank was one possible solution that was discussed, but no obvious best solution was identified.
- B.** Per Logan Cowart, the VA and UMMC have a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) covering the VA's reliance on UMMC's Institutional Biosafety Committee. The MOU includes no new VA Office of Research and Development (ORD) guidelines that were not listed in the previous MOU.
- C.** Given the increase in the number of researchers working with cancer cell lines, Dr. Thompson initiated discussion of the risks associated with these cells, specifically the risks resulting from accidental needle sticks. Dr. Bates stated that a given cell line is unlikely to pose a threat to any given individual because of allogenic immune responses. Anthony Walters stated that this matter is being discussed with Dr. Brian Williams concerning bloodborne pathogen risks, following OSHA guidelines. He agreed with Dr. Bates but added that small tumor formation at the site of the needle stick has been documented, though this outcome is rare. The risk is greater to individuals who are immunocompromised.

10. ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Anthony Walters and seconded by Dr. Josh Speed. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 4:17pm.