

Western Kentucky University (WKU) Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC)

Date: January 14, 2026

Time: 3:15 pm

Location: Zoom

Minutes

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Rodney King at 3:16 pm. Introductions were made.

Attendance

IBC Members Present

Rodney King, (Chair, BSO)

Naomi Rowland (Member)

Brooke Caudel Byrd (Local, Non-Affiliated Member)

Sarah Grant (Member, Technical Safety Specialist/Radiation Safety Officer, EHS)

Mark Clauson (Member, Laboratory Coordinator)

IBC Members Not Present

Karen Thomas (Local, Non-Affiliated Member, Veterinarian)

Other Individuals in Attendance

Kimberly Olin, Assistant Director of Compliance

Quorum

Dr. King stated there was a quorum.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

The last meeting was held January 13, 2025. Since this meeting, NIH released NOT-OD-25-082 on March 28, 2025 which announced that approved meeting minutes from all IBC meetings occurring on, or after June 1, 2025, must be posted publicly on an institutional website. It is NIH's expectation that minutes will be posted immediately after approval and once all appropriate and allowable redactions have been made.

Old Business

- Dr. Chris Groves submitted an application March 2025 (funded by FUSE grant). Not creating recombinant DNA molecule or culturing microorganisms. There was no need to apply.
- Dr. Agga stepped down from the board as an alternate member.
- If there are very specific applications, we have a procedure for assigning an ad hoc committee member in case we do not have the expertise represented on this committee.

New IBC Registrations and Amendments for Review

Resubmissions

None.

Amendments

None.

New Registration/Protocol

PI: Dr. Liwei Fang

Protocol Title: Studying the pathogenicity and antimicrobial resistance mechanisms of ***Staphylococcus aureus*** and ***Listeria monocytogenes***.

Protocol Type: New

Brief Project Overview:

This study involves the cultivation of *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Listeria monocytogenes* strains in defined and complex culture media to investigate their growth, virulence, survival, and stress responses under various conditions. Both species will be handled under **BSL-2 containment**.

Risk: While there are potential risks associated with working with these bacterial species, the overall risk is considered **moderate** and appropriate for **Biosafety Level 2 (BSL- 2)** containment.

IBC Discussion: The application was reviewed and minor modifications requested. The lab is not ready for inspection. Dr. Fang will notify Dr. King when the lab is fully stocked and ready. There were no concerns from the committee. The committee will approve the application after the inspection of the lab.

Training: PI/students will complete required institutional level training as well as detailed laboratory or protocol specific training.

Conflicts of Interest: None

Renewals: None.

Inspections/Ongoing Oversight

Lab inspections were completed on 01/12/2026 which was compliant with once-a-year inspections for BSL1 and BSL2 labs. Labs included EBS 3119, 3124, 3125, 3130E, 3130, 3131, 3133, SH 2107, SH 4108.

Dr. Liwie Fang – BSL2 space. Dr. Marquardt moved out of 3131 and Dr. Fang moved into that lab space and 3121. Labs are not ready yet and will need to be reinspected once Dr. Fang fully stocks labs.

New Business

- Welcome Kimberly Olin as the new Assistant Director of Compliance.
- The annual IBC meeting has historically been held the same day as inspections which was 01/12/2026. Due to the inspection schedule the annual meeting was postponed until 01/14/2026.
- Biology Department received a new autoclave and was installed in EVS during Spring 2025.
- Lab inspections need to be scheduled for instructional labs involving biosafety level 2 methodologies.
- Committee was asked to provide recommendations for a faculty member to join IBC.
- Mark Clauson will retire July 31, 2026. He will remain on the committee as community member.
- The IBC will meet as needed to approve minutes and conduct business.
- Per NIH notice the current (January 2026) approved minutes and future approved IBC meeting minutes will now be posted on the IBC webpage.

Adjournment

Dr. Rodney King adjourned the meeting at 4:17 pm.