

**Bowdoin College  
Institutional Biosafety Committee  
Meeting Minutes**

**Date: February 2, 2026**

**Time: 10:00AM – 11:30AM**

**Location: Hatch 210 (in person)**

**Members present: A. McBride (Chair), S. Fussell, C. Wojtysiak, P. Countway, M. Henderson, and A. Loeffler**

**Members Absent: A. Lage (Animal Expert)**

**Guests: E. Murphy (IBC Administrator)**

**1. CALL TO ORDER / COI STATEMENT/ CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM**

- a. The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 10:10AM.
  - i. The chair reminded all members present to identify any conflicts of interest.
- b. The quorum was confirmed (**6 out of 7 members present**) by the Administrator.
  - i. The IBC has 7 voting members, and 4 members are required to conduct business.

**2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

- a. Approve meeting minutes from October 28, 2025.
  - i. No corrections to the minutes, unanimously approved.
    - 1. Vote: For (6), Against (0), Abstain (0)

**3. REVIEW OF PRIOR BUSINESS**

- a. None.

**4. REVIEW OF PROTOCOLS**

- a. NEW Application
  - i. #2026-01\_Nguyen, Son
    - 1. Project Overview: The lab works primarily on isolated human immune cells, most frequently on peripheral blood from healthy donors or donors with specific conditions (infections with pathogens that do not exceed BSL-2, autoimmune conditions, cancers, etc.). Genetic modifications will be performed on the cells using methods including but not limited to CRISPR-Cas and RNA interference. The modifications will not result in the generation of any permanent cell lines as modified cells will be discarded at the end of the experiments. Using the samples, the lab plans to perform genomic profiling (e.g., single-cell RNA sequencing) and in vitro assays (e.g. co-culture T cell killing assay).
    - 2. Risk Assessment: Practices to minimize risks will include limiting the usage of sharps, utilizing deposable PPEs including gowns and double gloves. The tissue culture room also has separate door

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access, and the lab will maintain a negative pressure relative to the outside. Regular assessment of safety practices will be carried out.

3. Biosafety Level Assignment: BSL-2
4. Conflicts of Interest: None.
5. Motion to return the application to the PI with modifications to secure approval by CW; seconded by MH
  - a. Vote to approve: For - 6, Against – 0, Abstain - 0
  - b. Committee discussion and feedback:
    - i. The project needs more detail, including elaborating on the purpose of the project and being more explicit about the research question(s) and anticipated outcomes.
    - ii. Information on what mechanoporation is, if it has potential to create aerosols and how that will be managed?
    - iii. Are there possible pathogens beyond the ones tested for by StemCell Technologies?
    - iv. What gene(s) are you planning to modify using CRISPR and why? Might modification of those gene(s) impact hazards posed by exposure? How will you guard against/check for off-site mutations? Note that the CRISPR specifics can be included in Appendix A, but the genes targeted and any hazards associated should be included in the project description.
    - v. For this application, we recommend focusing on the purchased PBMCs rather than including potential future collaborators. Once you have more information that would allow you to include specifics needed for approval, you can submit a new (or potentially revised) protocol.
    - vi. Include more information about use of personal protective equipment. Will there be different requirements in different parts of your lab (tissue culture room vs. other wet-lab bench space)? Where will lab coats be stored/donned/removed?
    - vii. Do you anticipate using shared equipment spaces? If so, how will samples be transferred between spaces (what containment?)?
6. Action: The chair will send an email to the PI outlining the committee feedback, clarifications and requested modifications. The PI will also be asked to complete the new application form as the one submitted is out of date and lacks information required to grant approval. **The resubmitted protocol will go back to the full committee for review.**

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**5. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. IBC Charter Review
  - i. No edits currently but a few sections are flagged for review.
- b. New IBC Application
  - i. The committee is in favor of the new application. The form needs to be updated to include lab instructors. This revision will be completed before the new form is implemented.

**6. ADJOURNMENT**

- a. The meeting adjourned at 11:28AM.
  - i. Motion by SF; seconded by MH
    - 1. Vote: For (6), Against (0), Abstain (0)

Next meeting: TBD