IBC Meeting Minutes

September 30, 2025, via Zoom at 11:00 a.m.

Attendance

Attendees:

- Daniel Scholl, Kara McCormick,
- Kenneth Larson,
- Laura Ruesch- *recused*
- Benoit St Pierre
- Sen Subramanian
- Xiuqing Wang

Guests:

- Kinchel Doerner
- Jen Kuck
- Melody Hall

Absent:

- Sonja Van Holland
- Ruanbao Zhou,

The meeting was called to order by the IBC Chair at 11:04 a.m.

Daniel Scholl introduced new committee members and new D.RED staff, Kinchel Doerner

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Full Committee Review

Title of application: #3843 "Comparative growth rate study"

Principal Investigator: Schmitz-Esser, Stephen
Committee Discussion: Biosafety level 2 meets NIH guidelines; *Motion to approve the project* made by Larson, seconded by StPierre;
Committee Motion: Approved by unanimous vote 6-0.

Title of application: #3855 "Listeria monocytogenes adaptation to animals and food production environments"

Principal Investigator: Schmitz-Esser, Stephen
Committee Discussion: Question 3 is supposed to be lay language for the project but instead describes the justification; committee felt the lay description should be provided with an elaboration on how the project will be done and explain what equipment will be used; wasn't clear what they are doing or what the containment will be; verify the biosafety containment level–2 was proposed; the committee decided to wait for more information before making a decision; *Motion to request an updated lay description and an explanation of the approach to the project* before approval made by Larson, seconded by StPierre;
Committee Motion: Passed by unanimous vote 6-0 to request additional information before further review.

Title of application: #3860 “The saboteur's tools in action: cytoplasmic incompatibility genes of the bacterial arthropodsymbiont Cardinium hertigii”

Principal Investigator: Schmitz-Esser, Stephen

Committee Discussion: need to confirm biosafety level (application is for biosafety level 1); committee discussed that the lay language could be improved and the project description needs to be revised; *Motion to approve the application with a request to modify the response on Question 3 and to list the actual activities to be conducted was* made by Subramanian; seconded by Larson;

Committee Motion: Approved by unanimous vote 6-0, request additional information.

Kinchel Doerner explained federal regulations that are developing for “Gain-of- function”. May involve pathogens or those pathogens that could lead to a pandemic. Most routine lab processes are considered “gain of function.” NIH information shows pathogens but references pathogens for a pandemic and human pathogens.

The language is vague and definitions are broad. Could we set up pre-approved gain-of-function research and not require that each experiment be reviewed? We would need a system for documenting that. Could add a question to the form, “If you select recombinant DNA, do you expect this to be gain-of-function?” Discussion about whether this topic included US or just other countries and Doerner responded that some projects were halted this summer due to using human pathogens.

The meeting adjourned at 11:36 a.m. (Motion made by Subramanian, Seconded by Larson)