

## **INSTITUTIONAL BIOSAFETY COMMITTEE**

### **MEETING MINUTES**

**DATE:** July 17, 2025

**TIME:** 3:00 PM

**MEETING TYPE:** Both in Person and Virtual

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#### **1. MEETING ATTENDANCE**

- a. Count of voting members present
  - i. Eight (8) members present.
- b. Count of voting members required for quorum
  - i. Five (5) members must be present for a quorum.
- c. Voting IBC Members Present
  - i. Richard Laughlin, Ph.D. (IBC Chair)
  - ii. Randolph Creel, Ph.D. (BSO)
  - iii. Chang Sung, Ph.D. (Scientist, recombinant)
  - iv. Haeyoung Kim, Ph.D. (Scientist, recombinant)
  - v. Jason Apple, Ph.D. (Animal containment expert)
  - vi. Christopher Hearon, Ph.D. (Scientist, recombinant)
  - vii. Elda Sanchez, Ph.D. (Scientist, recombinant)
  - viii. Charlie Cardenas (Local Non-Affiliated)
- d. Non-Voting IBC Members Present
  - i. No Non-Voting IBC members were present.
- e. Office of Research and Innovation Staff Present:
  - i. Eutimio Alaniz (Recording Secretary)
  - ii. Ronika Williams (Recording Secretary)
- f. Guests Present:
  - i. No guest present at the meeting.

#### **2. CALL TO ORDER:**

- a. Meeting was called to order at 3:14 PM

#### **3. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST:**

- a. None at this time.

#### **4. ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- a. Announcement that the minutes will be posted publicly per NIH OSP requirement, and that all information on matters not covered by the NIH Guidelines will be redacted.
- b. Announcement that the Texas A&M University System Offices provided members templates of IBC meeting minutes.
- c. Announcement on the gain of function survey and requirements for USDA and NIH has been sent out. It will need to be completed in case there is any rebuttal that may be needed.
- d. Announcement on the DURC / PEPP for the requirements that the Federal Agencies are requiring and how TAMUK is currently set up to implement the potential new policies.
- e. Announcement on the Standard Operating Procedures. Dr. Laughlin and Dr. Kupczynski have worked on the Table of Contents (TOC) to get to the TAMUS research compliance office. Dr. Laughlin will work on them and send to the committee for comments and then work with Dr. Kupczynski to send to TAMUS for review.
- f. Announcement on IBC rosters for the memberships update set to happen for the next fiscal year to better align to the academic year cycle. Members were told if they would like to step down, they can meet with the chair of the to discuss that.
- g. Announcement on IBC laboratory inspections that will be starting soon pending the approval of the SOPs.
  - i. Some key items were brought up by members regarding:
    1. Scheduling the inspections and not have them as a drop in inspection
    2. Need to work closely with the BSO, Dr. Creel given his expertise and background with previous inspections. As well as possible set the president to train any future BSO candidate(s).

## 5. PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:

- a. None at this time.

## 6. PROTOCOL REVIEWS

- a. Registrations NOT containing work covered by the NIH Guidelines
  - i. None at this time.
- b. Registrations containing work covered by the NIH Guidelines

<b>Protocol #</b>	IBC - 00000008
<b>Protocol Type</b>	Initial Review
<b>PI Name</b>	Dr. Matthew Alexander
<b>Project Title</b>	Plastic Biodegradation Testing using Bacteria
<b>Training</b>	Documentation is present that there has been a verification the PI and laboratory staff performing the research have been appropriately trained in the safe conduct of the research.
<b>Summary of Proposed Research</b>	The purpose of this biosafety protocol is for the investigation of plastics biodegradation using various bacteria. Bacteria listed herein will be obtained from ATCC and testing in plates or suspended culture in the laboratory for ability to degrade select plastics. The cultures will be Petri dish, test tube, Erlenmeyer flask, 1-2 L bioreactors. An autoclave available from the Environmental Engineering Department and located in [REDACTED] will be used for sterilizing media, glassware, and spent

	cultures prior to disposal. At this time, no work with recombinant DNA nor with pathogenic organisms is planned. The work proposed is for research purposes for graduate and undergraduate students.																								
<b>Section(s) of NIH Guidelines</b>	III-F																								
<b>Characteristics of Agent(s) or Material(s)</b>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>#</th><th>Agent</th><th>BSL</th><th>RG</th><th><i>In vivo</i></th><th>Recombinant</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td><td>Bacillus licheniformis</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>No</td><td>No</td></tr> <tr> <td>2</td><td>Bacillus subtilis</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>No</td><td>No</td></tr> <tr> <td>3</td><td>Pseudomonas putida</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>No</td><td>No</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	#	Agent	BSL	RG	<i>In vivo</i>	Recombinant	1	Bacillus licheniformis	1	1	No	No	2	Bacillus subtilis	1	1	No	No	3	Pseudomonas putida	1	1	No	No
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<b>Risk Assessment, Mitigations, and Work Practices</b>	Risk assessments, mitigation efforts and work practices have been documented in the protocol and are sufficient.																								
<b>Training and Expertise of Research Personnel</b>	Dr. Matthew Alexander and Juan Alaniz have completed the necessary biosafety training required for this registration.																								
<b>Occupational Health</b>	Occupational health has been documented with the Environmental, Health, Fire & Safety Office.																								
<b>Reviewer Comments</b>	None at this time.																								
<b>Motion</b>	A motion was made by Dr. Randolph Creel to approve the registration as is.																								
<b>Second</b>	A second was made by Dr. Chang Sung to approve the registration as is.																								
<b>Vote</b>	<table border="1"> <tbody> <tr> <td>For:</td><td>Eight (8)</td><td>Against:</td><td>Zero (0)</td></tr> <tr> <td>Abstain:</td><td>None.</td><td>Recuse:</td><td>None.</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	For:	Eight (8)	Against:	Zero (0)	Abstain:	None.	Recuse:	None.																
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## **7. New Business/Additional Topics**

- a. None at this time.

## **8. Review of Incidents**

- a. Nothing to Report to NIH OSP.
- b. Investigation into the use of a blood from a dog owned by a person and not the university used in a teaching lab. The IBC reviewed the incident and came up with stipulations for the incident stated below:
  - i. Purchase Animal blood products through a biological supplier [Pel-Freez® Biologicals, 205 N. Arkansas St., Rogers, AR]. In this case, an Institutional Biosafety Protocol (IBC) must be approved by TAMUK IBC prior to initiation of activities. The laboratory or facility in which these experiments take place must be approved for biohazardous materials work.
  - ii. The CHEM 1111/1112 instructor of record could coordinate with TAMUK Meat Scientist, Dr. Tanner Machado, to supply the needed animal blood which would be obtained from either the TAMUK Meat Lab or South Texas Beef Processors, Corpus Christi [STX]. Again, an Institutional Biosafety Protocol (IBC) must be approved by TAMUK IBC prior to initiation of activities. The laboratory or facility in which these experiments take place must be approved for biohazardous materials work.
  - iii. Any Laboratory Teaching/Research Activities involving the use of any animal blood must be previously approved through the TAMUK IBC through normal protocol submission process. The instructor of record could collaborate with TAMUK Faculty which currently have an “active” IBC Protocol for use of animal blood. The TAMUK faculty member and CHEM instructor of record would collaboratively submit an IBC amendment to the “active” IBC protocol for IBC approval. The Instructor of Record, and all Lab Managers associated with this activity must complete on-line CITI Training: “OSHA Bloodborne Pathogens” and “Training for Investigators, Staff and Students Handling Biohazards”. The laboratory or facility in which these experiments take place must be approved for biohazardous materials work. In this case, both an Institutional Animal Care & Use (IACUC) Protocol (or Amendment) and an Institutional Biosafety (IBC) Protocol must be approved by TAMUK IACUC & IBC, respectively.

## **9. Inspection/Ongoing Oversight**

- a. The IBC was informed in an announcement that laboratory inspections will begin soon, as soon as the SOPs have been reviewed and approved.

## **10. IBC Training**

- a. Research Compliance will be looking at training completion and will have members update their CITI training.

## **11. Public Comments**

- a. None at this time.

## **12. Adjournment**

- a. Meeting was adjourned at 3:57 PM

APPROVED