

**THE WISTAR INSTITUTE IBC**  
**Monthly Meeting Minutes**

**February 19, 2026**  
**2:00PM – 3:00PM**  
**Hybrid Meeting**

**Members Present:** (Quorum = 6 members)

Qingsheng Li, IBC Chair, WI PI  
Roma Maraj-Owen, WI Director of Laboratory Operations and Environmental Health and Safety  
Michelle Ho, WI Biosafety Officer  
Colby Maldini, WI PI  
Yulia Nefedova, WI PI  
Sonali Majumdar, WI PI  
Paul Lieberman, WI PI  
Denise DiFrancesco, WI Animal Facilities Director  
Lauren Duffy, WI Animal Facilities Associate Managing Director  
Rebecca Spangenberg, Non-Affiliated Assist. Prof.

**Members Absent:**

Erick Gagne, Non-Affiliated Assist. Prof

**Guests Present:**

Brennah Murphy Britten, WI Research Compliance Coordinator

1.0 Call to Order

1.1 The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 2:00 PM

2.0 Review and Approval of Previous Month's Meeting Minutes (January 15, 2026).

2.1 The January meeting minutes were reviewed with no comments or revisions. A motion to approve the minutes was made, seconded, and approved unanimously.

3.0 Discussion of observed Violations / Exposures

3.1 No observed violations.

4.0 Monthly Review of IBC Registrations and Amendments submitted since the last meeting.

4.1 For the registrations listed below, the committee discussed, where relevant, the characteristics of the agent, the types of manipulations planned, the source(s) of the nucleic acid sequences, host(s) vector(s) to be used and whether there were attempts planned to obtain expression of a transgene, and if so, the function of the protein that would be produced. Additional discussion is recorded below.

5.0 Open Discussion

5.1 The committee discussed updating Question 8 in the IBC registration form for clarity. Some on the committee also noted that this question may not be relevant in many cases, such as if a vector is replication incompetent. The IBC office will work on updating this item in the form.

5.2 Conversations are ongoing to develop an online IBC review platform. The IBC Office has met with internal developers and external vendors. The Office will update the committee as progress is made on the initiative.

6.0 The Meeting was adjourned at 2:40 PM

7.0 The next meeting will be March 19, 2026, time TBD.

### IBC Registrations

PI	Registration no.	Title	BSL	ABSL
Veglia	22601665	Engineering and testing armored bi-specific CAR T cell product as a tool to study resistance mechanisms to CAR T cell-based therapies in solid tumors.	2	
<b>Applicable NIH Guidelines:</b> Section III-E		<b>All required trainings are complete</b> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		
<b>Summary:</b> This lab proposes to modify anticancer CAR-T cells to co-express EGFRvIII and IL13Ra2. The antitumor functions of these CAR-T cells will be tested in <i>in vitro</i> models only.				
<b>Discussion:</b> This is a new registration. The lab will utilize replication incompetent lentiviral and retroviral vectors that are commercially available to modify primary cells for testing in <i>in vitro</i> systems.  The committee requested clarification regarding the personnel listed on the registration and additional description in section 4a.  There was also additional discussion as to whether the PI should anticipate utilizing the modified cells in <i>in vivo</i> systems given that some of the cell lines being modified are murine in nature. The committee concluded that if this project were to move in that direction, this registration would be amended at that time.  A motion was made to close the discussion and secure approval following minor modifications requested by the committee.				
<b>Motion:</b> Conditional Approval (Admin Review)		For:9	Recuse:	Against:
		Abstain	Absent: 2	

PI	Registration no.	Title	BSL	ABSL
Altieri	22601666	Role of Mic60 in pancreatic cancer	2	
<b>Applicable NIH Guidelines:</b> Section III-D		<b>All required trainings are complete</b> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		
<b>Summary:</b> This lab is investigating the role of protein MIC60 in tumor progression and immunotherapy. They will silence MIC60 in primary murine cell lines using shRNA. These will be tested in both <i>in vitro</i> and <i>in vivo</i> models of cancer.				
<b>Discussion:</b> This registration is a renewal. The lab uses commercially available lentiviral vectors to modify cell lines.  The committee discussed whether the <i>in vivo</i> work would also require BSL2 containment. They concluded that this was not necessary as once the stable line is developed, there is no longer any risk of infection.  The committee had no additional comments or concerns regarding the registration. A motion was made to close the discussion, and the registration was approved unanimously.				
<b>Motion:</b> Approve		For:10	Recuse:	Against:
		Abstain	Absent: 1	

PI	Registration no.	Title	BSL	ABSL
Escolano	22601667	Design of vaccines against highly mutating viruses	2	
<b>Applicable NIH Guidelines:</b> Section III-E		<b>All required trainings are complete</b> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		
<b>Summary:</b> This lab will design mRNA vaccines antigens utilizing a pVAX plasmid against several viruses by targeting viral surfaces. These vaccines will be tested in <i>in vivo</i> models of disease.				

<b>Discussion:</b> This registration is a renewal.					
The committee discussed the classification of the registration and determined that it should be classified as a BSL2 due to the work with human cell lines. The committee also noted that an additional contact to the PI was not listed, but this is not required – just recommended.					
A motion was made to close the discussion and secure approval following minor modifications requested by the committee.					
<b>Motion:</b> Conditional Approval (Admin Review)	For:10	Recuse:	Against:	Abstain	Absent: 1

PI	Registration no.	Title	BSL	ABSL		
Liang	22602668	New control of oncogene activation in T-cell leukemia	2			
<b>Applicable NIH Guidelines:</b> Section III-D		<b>All required trainings are complete</b> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>				
<b>Summary:</b> This lab will modify human leukemia cells using lentiviral vectors. Modifications to the cells are two-fold: (1) autophagy or UVRAG proteins of interest will be modified for phenotypic analysis and (2) fluorescent/luminescent tags will be added to allow for <i>in vitro</i> and <i>in vivo</i> imaging assays.						
<b>Discussion:</b> This registration is a renewal.						
The committee had no additional comments or concerns regarding the registration. A motion was made to close the discussion, and the registration was approved unanimously.						
<b>Motion:</b> Approved		For:10	Recuse:	Against:	Abstain	Absent:1

PI	Registration no.	Title	BSL	ABSL		
Weiner	22602669	Development of DNA/mRNA vaccines, adjuvants, and DNA-encoded biologic technologies against infectious diseases	2			
<b>Applicable NIH Guidelines:</b> Section III-E		<b>All required trainings are complete</b> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>				
<b>Summary:</b> This lab seeks to design novel DNA/mRNA vaccines, adjuvants and biological technologies against emerging infectious diseases. The lab will evaluate the immune response in <i>in vivo</i> models following inoculation with recombinant products generated <i>in vitro</i> or direct vaccination with DNA encoding plasmids or AAV6.2FF.						
<b>Discussion:</b> This registration is a renewal and covers work carried out in the lab that focuses on the development of novel vaccines against several infectious diseases. The scope of the protocol was broad; however, the registration was well written and satisfied committee requirements and the committee did not have any major concerns with it.						
Administrative corrections were required regarding personnel lines.						
The committee had no additional comments or concerns regarding the registration. A motion was made to close the discussion, and the registration was approved unanimously.						
<b>Motion:</b> Approved		For:10	Recuse:	Against:	Abstain	Absent:1

## Reports

### Administrative Approvals

Nothing to report.

**Chair or Designee Signature**

Date