

**THE WISTAR INSTITUTE IBC  
Monthly Meeting Minutes**

**March 19, 2026  
2:30PM – 3:30PM  
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

Colby Maldini, WI PI

Yulia Nefedova, WI PI

Sonali Majumdar, WI PI

Denise DiFrancesco, WI Animal Facilities Director

Lauren Duffy, WI Animal Facilities Associate Managing Director

Rebecca Spangenberg, Non-Affiliated Assist. Prof.

Erick Gagne, Non-Affiliated Assist. Prof

**Members Absent:**

Michelle Ho, WI Biosafety Officer

Paul Lieberman, WI PI

**Guests Present:**

Brennah Murphy Britten, WI Research Compliance Coordinator

Alyssa Jarrell, Implementation Specialist

1.0 Call to Order

1.1 The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 2:34 PM

2.0 Review and Approval of Previous Month's Meeting Minutes (February 19, 2026).

2.1 The February 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 Other Business

5.1 The committee was presented with the revised registration form, noting changes to clarify the genome percentage reporting. The committee approved the new form without objections.

6.0 The Meeting was adjourned at 3:10 PM

7.0 The next meeting will be April 16, 2026, at 2:30 PM.

## Committee Discussions

### New

PI	Registration no.	Title	BSL	ABSL		
Gardini	22602672	Gene regulation in Myeloid cells	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 study investigates how Lamin A/C affects gene regulation and chromatin organization in myeloid cells. Retroviral and Lentiviral vectors will be used to knock down or overexpress Lamin A/C in myeloid cells and primary cells.						
<b>Discussion:</b> The registration was presented to the committee. A question was raised regarding the reported native viral genome percentages between sections in the registration form. The committee requested clarification and modification from the PI prior to registration approval.						
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: 0	Against: 0	Abstain: 0	Absent: 2

PI	Registration no.	Title	BSL	ABSL		
Wu	22602671	Development of a comprehensive HIV DNA specific latency reversal agent using mRNA LNPs	2 plus			
<b>Applicable NIH Guidelines:</b> Section III-F		<b>All required trainings are complete</b> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>				
<b>Summary:</b> This project aims to make DNA plasmids and mRNA constructs that produce transcription activator like effectors (TALEs), which can be used to temporarily activate genes in human and animal cells. They can also be used to activate HIV in infected cells. The goal of the study is to reverse HIV latency and explore treatment options for HIV, cirrhosis, and cancer by transiently expressing of certain genes.						
<b>Discussion:</b> The registration was presented to the committee, and a brief discussion was held regarding the rationale for BSL-2 plus (+) containment versus BSL-2 containment. It was noted that the BSL-2+ containment is appropriate as the lab uses ex vivo HIV-infected primary cell cultures. The biosafety officer reminded the committee of the additional precautions taken with BSL-2+ containment.						
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: 9	Recuse: 0	Against: 0	Abstain: 0	Absent: 2

### Renewal

PI	Registration no.	Title	BSL	ABSL		
Nikonova	22602670	Assessing Chimeron's Bio ChaESAR technology in murine models of disease	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 has in-licensed ChaESAR, a new RNA delivery technology, from the National Cancer Institute (NCI). This registration describes studies which aim to assess the biodistribution of ChaESAR particles as well as the kinetics of expression of delivered genes and efficacy of the therapy against various cancers and infectious diseases.						
<b>Discussion:</b> The registration was presented to the committee, and an in-depth discussion was had on risk group classification and biosafety level. The committee ultimately agreed that risk group 1 classification and BSL-2 containment are appropriate.						
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: 9	Recuse: 0	Against: 0	Abstain: 0	Absent: 2

**Amendments**

PI	Registration no.	Title	BSL	ABSL
Villanueva	22410635	Functional characterization of genes involved in melanoma	2	
Applicable NIH Guidelines: Section III-D		All required trainings are complete Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		
<b>Summary:</b> This lab seeks to determine the role of selected genes in melanoma and their potential role in mediating response to therapy.		<b>Amendment Type:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Additional Vectors if similar to Original Vector's Competency <input type="checkbox"/> Additional Gene Insert(s)/Protein to be Expressed <input type="checkbox"/> Minor Change to the Experimental Design <input type="checkbox"/> Change of PI <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Change of Personnel <input type="checkbox"/> Change of Location <input type="checkbox"/> Change to In Vivo and/or In Vitro Host(s) and/or Associated Protocol Number(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Other		

PI	Registration no.	Title	BSL	ABSL
Aird	22506652	Metabolic landscape of cancer	2	
Applicable NIH Guidelines: Section III-F		All required trainings are complete Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		
<b>Summary:</b> This lab seeks to identify metabolic changes in cancer cells, determine why there are differences in cancer cell metabolism, and evaluate the therapeutic efficacy of targeting these metabolic changes to better cancer metabolism and improve patient outcomes.		<b>Amendment Type:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Additional Vectors if similar to Original Vector's Competency <input type="checkbox"/> Additional Gene Insert(s)/Protein to be Expressed <input type="checkbox"/> Minor Change to the Experimental Design <input type="checkbox"/> Change of PI <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Change of Personnel <input type="checkbox"/> Change of Location <input type="checkbox"/> Change to In Vivo and/or In Vitro Host(s) and/or Associated Protocol Number(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Other		



Chair or Designee Signature

5/4/2026

Date: