THE WISTAR INSTITUTE IBC
Monthly Meeting Minutes

April 16, 2026
2:30PM – 3:30PM
Hybrid Meeting

Members Present: (Quorum = 6 members)
Roma Maraj-Owen, WI Director of Laboratory Operations and Environmental Health and Safety
Michelle Ho, WI Biosafety Officer
Paul Lieberman, 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:
Qingsheng Li, IBC Chair, WI PI
Colby Maldini, WI PI

Guests Present:
Brennah Murphy Britten, WI Research Compliance Coordinator

1.0 Call to Order
- 1.1 The meeting was called to order by the Director of Lab Operations and Environmental Health and Safety at 2:40 PM

2.0 Review and Approval of Previous Month's Meeting Minutes (March 19, 2026).
- 2.1 The March 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 Nothing discussed

6.0 The Meeting was adjourned at 3:10 PM

7.0 The next meeting will be May 21, 2026, at 2:30 PM.

Committee Discussions

New

PI	Registration no.	Title	BSL	ABSL
Gardini	**22604675**	Investigating transcriptional regulatory complexes	2	

Applicable NIH Guidelines: Section III-E | **All required trainings are complete** Yes ☒ No ☐

Summary: This study investigates the mechanisms of transcriptional regulation and how GTPases contribute to initiating transcription at actively expressed genes. Multiple vectors will be used to overexpress and knockdown GPN1 and GPN3 in human cell lines and to generate purified recombinant proteins to be used for genomic profiling and functional assays.

Discussion: The registration was presented to the committee. The committee did not have any comments or concerns. The containment and classifications were found to be appropriate.

A motion was made to close the discussion, and the registration was approved unanimously

Motion: Approve	For: 9	Recuse: 0	Against: 0	Abstain: 0	Absent: 2

PI	Registration no.	Title	BSL	ABSL
Gardini	**22604676**	Role of Zinc Finger Proteins in Regulation of the Integrator Complex	2	

Applicable NIH Guidelines: Section III-E | **All required trainings are complete** Yes ☒ No ☐

Summary: This study aims to produce lentiviral particles to investigate the mechanisms by which Zinc Finger Proteins interact with Integrator complex subunits to dictate their localization and how they contribute to gene regulation. Human cell lines will be modified to overexpress or knockdown the protein of interest and used for genomic profiling and functional assays.

Discussion: The committee reviewed the registration and had no significant comments or concerns. The containment and classifications were found to be appropriate.

A motion was made to close the discussion, and the registration was approved unanimously.

Motion: Approve	For: 9	Recuse: 0	Against: 0	Abstain: 0	Absent: 2

PI	Registration no.	Title	BSL	ABSL
Li	**22604677**	Investigation of Immunopathogenesis and Immunotherapeutics Using Lymphocytic Choriomeningitis Virus (LCMV) Model	2	

Applicable NIH Guidelines: Section III-D | **All required trainings are complete** Yes ☒ No ☐

Summary: This lab aims to investigate viral immunopathogenesis of LCMV and evaluate various Immunotherapeutic models using viral stocks of LCMV Armstrong and Clone 13. Plasmids will be used as templates for generating mRNA through *in vitro* transcription.

Discussion: After review and discussion, the committee determined that this IBC Registration should be modified to clarify the precautions that will be taken to mitigate potential exposure risk to personnel. Additionally, the committee discussed the issue of potential cross contamination within the vivarium. It was noted that this issue is managed by a separate committee at the institute. The IBC Office will alert that committee who will address the concern.

A motion was made to close the discussion and secure approval pending minor modifications requested by the committee and subsequent administrative review.

Motion: Conditional Approval (Admin Review)	For: 9	Recuse: 0	Against: 0	Abstain: 0	Absent: 2

Renewal

PI	Registration no.	Title	BSL	ABSL
Liang	**22603674**	A cancer-derived truncating mutation in disease penetrance and progression of MSI CRC	2	

Applicable NIH Guidelines: Section III-D	**All required trainings are complete** Yes ☒ No ☐

Summary: This lab will modify human colon epithelial cells and colon cancer cells using lentiviral vectors to express UVRAG for centrosome staining and biochemistry analysis alongside *in vitro* and *in vivo* experiments.

Discussion: The committee reviewed the registration seeking renewal. They noted that there was some missing information regarding the route and maximum dosages for *in vivo* inoculation and questioned the relevance of listing vivarium numbers in the registration. The IBC Office explained that vivarium room numbers are no longer required, but laboratory room numbers are necessary.

A motion was made to close the discussion and secure approval pending minor modifications requested by the committee and subsequent administrative review.

Motion	For	Recuse	Against	Abstain	Absent
Motion: Conditional Approval (Admin Review)	For: 9	Recuse: 0	Against: 0	Abstain: 0	Absent: 2

Amendments

PI	Registration no.	Title	BSL	ABSL
Liang	22602668	New control of oncogene activation in T-cell leukemia	2	

Applicable NIH Guidelines: Section III-D	**All required trainings are complete** Yes ☒ No ☐

Summary: 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 *in vitro* and *in vivo* imaging assays.	**Amendment Type**: ☒ Additional Vectors if similar to Original Vector's Competency ☒ Additional Gene Insert(s)/Protein to be Expressed ☐ Minor Change to the Experimental Design ☐ Change of PI ☐ Change of Personnel ☐ Change of Location ☐ Change to In Vivo and/or In Vitro Host(s) and/or Associated Protocol Number(s) ☐ Other

Discussion: The amendment adding vectors and gene inserts to an existing registration was presented and discussed, procedural questions were clarified, and the amendment was approved with no changes required.

Motion	For	Recuse	Against	Abstain	Absent
Motion: Approve	For: 9	Recuse: 0	Against: 0	Abstain: 0	Absent: 2

Administrative Approvals

PI	Registration no.	Title	Amendment Type
Villanueva	22410635	Determine the role of selected genes in melanoma and potential role in mediating response to therapy.	☒ Change of Personnel ☐ Change of Location
Zhou	22504650	Understanding and manipulating immune system using functional genomics and immune engineering	☒ Change of Personnel ☐ Change of Location

Chair or Designee Signature

Date 6/10/2026

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