

THE WISTAR INSTITUTE IBC
Monthly Meeting Minutes

August 20, 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

Michelle Ho, WI Biosafety Officer

Colby Maldini, WI PI

Sonali Majumdar, WI PI

Yulia Nefedova, WI PI

Denise DiFrancesco, WI Animal Facilities Director

Lauren Duffy, WI Animal Facilities Associate Managing Director

Rebecca Spangenberg, Non-Affiliated Assist. Prof.

Members Absent:

Paul Lieberman, WI PI

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 IBC Chair at 2:33 PM

2.0 Review and Approval of Previous Month's Meeting Minutes (May 21, 2026).

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

2.2 No registrations requiring full committee review were submitted during the months of June or July 2026. All registrations and amendments that were administratively approved during June and July 2026 were presented to the committee and are summarized below.

3.0 Discussion of observed Violations / Exposures

3.1 No observed violations or exposures.

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 informed of the NIH's draft policy changes affecting Institutional Biosafety Committees, including new requirements for public posting of committee rosters, elimination of administrative reviews, and changes to incident investigation and gain-of-function research oversight.

5.2 The committee discussed the possibility of reducing the number of meetings during the summer months when activity is low. It was noted that it is common practice at other institutions for IBCs to recess in the summer months. It was also noted that the current schedule is monthly and can be adjusted if there are no registrations to review.

The committee suggested that if the IBC recesses during the summer months, emergency meetings may still be scheduled if urgent reviews are required.

6.0 The Meeting was adjourned at 2:57 PM

7.0 The next meeting is scheduled for September 17, 2026, at 2:30 PM.

Committee Discussions

New

PI	Registration no.	Title	BSL	ABSL		
Mamedov	22608685	Immune Recognition of Cellular Stress	2			
Applicable NIH Guidelines: III-E		All required trainings are complete Yes ☐ No ☒				
Summary: This project aims to identify genes and cellular pathways that influence how immune cells recognize and respond to cancer and other diseased cells. Laboratory-based genetic and molecular approaches will be used to study these interactions in cultured cells and human tissues, with follow-up studies conducted to confirm findings and characterize underlying biological mechanisms.						
This PI recently joined Wistar and is in the process of establishing his laboratory. As this is a new laboratory, personnel training is currently in progress.						
Discussion: The committee discussed the use of pseudotyped lentiviral vectors, confirming they are replication-incompetent and pose no biosafety concerns.						
The committee had no further questions or concerns regarding the content of the registration, noting that the containment and applicable guidelines were found to be appropriate. The registration was approved unanimously.						
Motion: Approve		For: 9	Recuse:	Against:	Abstain	Absent: 2

Renewal

PI	Registration no.	Title	BSL	ABSL		
Sarma	22608686	Overexpression and knockdown of proteins in various mammalian cell lines.	2			
Applicable NIH Guidelines: III-E			All required trainings are complete Yes ☒ No ☐			
Summary: This project will investigate the roles of the proteins ADNP, ATRX, ZNF296, and HDAC11 in regulating cellular function. Researchers will modify the levels of these proteins in established cell lines and evaluate the resulting effects on related molecular and cellular pathways.						
Discussion: This registration is a renewal describing overexpression and knockdown of proteins in cell lines using commercially obtained lentiviral vectors. The committee noted a potential chemical hazard and requested that a safety data sheet be made available to researchers to ensure awareness of potential hazards.						
The committee had no further questions or concerns regarding the content of the registration, noting that the containment and applicable guidelines were found to be appropriate. The registration was approved unanimously.						
Motion: Approve		For: 9	Recuse:	Against:	Abstain	Absent: 2

Amendments

PI	Registration no.	Title	BSL	ABSL
Xu	22512664	Nanobodies as countermeasures against viral pathogens	2	
Applicable NIH Guidelines: Section III-E		All required trainings are complete Yes ☒ No ☐		
Summary: The amendment supports ongoing work to develop nanobody-based antiviral tools and related recombinant proteins. The project will use standard molecular and cellular methods to produce and evaluate target proteins and nanobody candidates, with functional testing conducted in collaboration with external laboratories.		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: This amendment was brought to the full committee due to the addition of new experimental elements. The committee confirmed that the vectors being added to the registration are replication-competent as required for the experimental design, but no significant safety concerns were identified, and the risk was assessed as minimal - risk group 1. The committee had no further questions or concerns regarding the content of the registration, noting that the containment and applicable guidelines were found to be appropriate. The registration was approved unanimously.				
Motion: Approve		For: 9	Recuse:	Against: Abstain Absent: 2

Administrative Approvals

PI	Registration no.	Title	BSL	ABSL
Fuglestad	22607684	Recombinant expression of membrane associated proteins for biophysical, structural, and drug discovery studies	1	
Applicable NIH Guidelines: III-E		All required trainings are complete Yes ☐ No ☒		
Summary: This project aims to characterize the structure and function of membrane-associated proteins and evaluate their potential as targets for small-molecule therapies. Researchers will use plasmids to express proteins in <i>E. coli</i> , purify the proteins, and study them through <i>in vitro</i> assays. This PI recently joined Wistar and is in the process of establishing his laboratory. As this is a new laboratory, personnel training is currently in progress.				
Discussion: Exempt registration administratively approved after review with IBC chair and BSO.				

PI	Registration no.	Title	BSL	ABSL
Bertolini	22606684	Role of CD73+ extracellular vesicles in tumor	2	
Applicable NIH Guidelines: III-E		All required trainings are complete Yes ☒ No ☐		
Summary: This project will examine how CD73 on the surface of extracellular vesicles influences immune regulation in cancer. Investigators will generate cancer cell lines lacking CD73 to produce tumor-derived extracellular vesicles without CD73 for further study.				
Discussion: Exempt registration administratively approved after review with IBC chair and BSO.				

PI	Registration no.	Title	Amendment Type
Bertolini	22402623	The role of microglia-derived extracellular vesicles in glioma microenvironment	☒ 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
Xu	22512664	Nanobodies as countermeasures against viral pathogens	☒ Change of Personnel ☐ Change of Location
Xu	22512664	Nanobodies as countermeasures against viral pathogens	☒ Change of Personnel ☐ Change of Location
Wu	22602671	Development of a comprehensive HIV DNA specific latency reversal agent using mRNA LNPs	☒ Change of Personnel ☐ Change of Location
Zhang	22502647	Leveraging myeloid cell activation to treat tumor metastases	☒ Change of Personnel ☐ Change of Location ☒ Additional vectors ☒ Additional gene inserts *Note: administratively approved after review with IBC Chair and BSO
Xu	22512664	Nanobodies as countermeasures against viral pathogens	☒ Change of Personnel ☐ Change of Location



2026-9-17