

THE WISTAR INSTITUTE IBC
Monthly Meeting Minutes

May 21, 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
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:

Paul Lieberman, WI PI
Yulia Nefedova, 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 IBC Chair at 2:30 PM

2.0 Review and Approval of Previous Month's Meeting Minutes (April 16, 2026).

2.1 The April 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 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.

4.2 A committee member raised concerns about the consistency and necessity of certain questions in registration forms and discussed the potential for confusion if questions are duplicated or inconsistently answered. The committee discussed the risk of having the same question in multiple places, which could lead to inconsistent answers and confusion during protocol review. The committee agreed that while redundancy can be helpful to ensure full coverage in the form, it is important to ensure answers are consistent and clear, and suggested future consideration of form revisions.

5.0 Other Business

5.1 Nothing discussed

6.0 The Meeting was adjourned at 3:16 PM

7.0 The next meeting is scheduled for June 18, 2026, at 2:30 PM.

Committee Discussions

Renewal

PI	Registration no.	Title				BSL	ABSL		
Herlyn	22604678	Melanoma drug resistance and metastasis models using murine and primary human melanoma cells and cell lines				2			
Applicable NIH Guidelines: III-D					All required trainings are complete Yes ☒ No ☐				
Summary: This lab proposes to identify genes involved in melanoma drug resistance and metastasis by introducing inducible gene-editing systems into human melanoma cells. These modified cells will be used to assess the effects of targeted gene disruptions on tumor growth. The approach will support validation of key genetic drivers of melanoma progression and therapeutic response.									
Discussion: The committee had no 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: 0	Against: 0	Abstain: 0	Absent: 2

PI	Registration no.	Title				BSL	ABSL		
Lieberman	22605679	Development of Small Molecule Inhibitors of KSHV Using Murine Models of Pleural Effusion Lymphoma				2			
Applicable NIH Guidelines: III-E					All required trainings are complete Yes ☒ No ☐				
Summary: This lab proposes to use a commercially available plasmid to construct a lentiviral vector which can be used to introduce a luminescent and fluorescent marker into human cell lines that will be expressed as a fusion protein. This would allow researchers to track tumor growth, test treatments and act as a selection marker for cell sorting. The lab may also opt to use a commercially available lentivirus that works for both imaging and cell sorting.									
Discussion: The committee had no questions regarding the registration. The containment and guidelines were found to be appropriate, and it was approved unanimously.									
Motion: Approve					For: 9	Recuse: 0	Against: 0	Abstain: 0	Absent: 2

PI	Registration no.	Title			BSL	ABSL
Lieberman	22605680	A murine model of Primary CNS lymphoma (PCNSL), neuroinvasion, and neuroinflammation			2	
Applicable NIH Guidelines: III-E				All required trainings are complete Yes ☒ No ☐		
Summary: This lab proposes to use a commercially available plasmid to construct a lentiviral vector which can be used to introduce a luminescent and fluorescent marker into human cell lines that will be expressed as a fusion protein. This would allow researchers to track tumor growth, test treatments and act as a selection marker for cell sorting. The lab may also opt to use a commercially available lentivirus that works for both imaging and cell sorting. The lab will also use CRISPR-CAS9 technology to assess potential drivers of EBV-mediated disease.						
Discussion: The committee had no questions regarding the registration. The containment and guidelines were found to be appropriate, and it was approved unanimously.						
Motion: Approve				For: 9	Recuse: 0	Against: 0
				Abstain: 0	Absent: 2	

PI	Registration no.	Title	BSL	ABSL
Liang	22605682	Targeting the host NDP kinase to abrogate viral dissemination	2	
Applicable NIH Guidelines: III-D		All required trainings are complete Yes ☒ No ☐		
Summary: The laboratory proposes to study how host NDP kinase is used by KSHV to control viral particle production by using a vector which is developed by the lab. The work will also involve developing small molecules that can disrupt the viral lifecycle.				
Discussion: A committee member questioned whether the novel vector being created in the protocol posed an infection risk due to the presence of the whole viral genome. After discussion it was determined that, due to the incompetent nature of the vector, the risk is considered low/minimal as the vector is unlikely to cause an infection. The committee closed the discussion and voted unanimously to approve the registration.				
Motion: Approve		For: 9	Recuse: 0	Against: 0
		Abstain: 0	Absent: 2	

Amendments

PI	Registration no.	Title	BSL	ABSL
Xu	22512664	Nanobodies as countermeasures against viral pathogens	2	
Applicable NIH Guidelines: III-E		All required trainings are complete Yes ☒ No ☐		
Summary: This is the 2 nd amendment to the registration. The laboratory proposes to develop antiviral nanobody-based therapeutics by producing viral and host proteins for immunization and screening. Nanobody libraries will be generated from and screened using phage and yeast display techniques to identify candidates with strong binding properties. Selected nanobodies will be further engineered, produced, and evaluated for their ability to neutralize viruses.		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 committee had no questions regarding the registration. The containment and guidelines were found to be appropriate, and it was approved unanimously.				
Motion: Approve		For: 9	Recuse:	Against:
		Abstain	Absent: 2	

PI	Registration no.	Title	BSL	ABSL
Lieberman	22310609	Development of therapeutics and testing of gene knockouts to treat EBV+ gastric cancer and understand underlying mechanisms of disease	2	
Applicable NIH Guidelines: III-E		All required trainings are complete Yes ☒ No ☐		
Summary: This is the 2 nd amendment to the registration. This lab proposes to use a commercially available plasmid to construct a lentiviral vector which can be used to introduce a luminescent and fluorescent marker into human cell lines that will be expressed as a fusion protein. This would allow researchers to track tumor growth, test treatments and act as a selection marker for cell sorting.		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 committee had no questions regarding the registration. The containment and guidelines were found to be appropriate, and it was approved unanimously.

Motion: Approve

For: 9

Recuse:

Against:

Abstain

Absent: 2

Administrative Approvals

PI	Registration no.	Title	BSL	ABSL
Murphy	22605683	The p53-PADI4 axis in cancer	1	
Applicable NIH Guidelines: III-F		All required trainings are complete Yes ☒ No ☐		
Summary: This lab proposes to use a plasmid vector to generate a stably-transfected cell line using cDNA encoding tetracycline-activated transactivator (TTa) and cDNA encoding PADI4.				
Discussion: The exempt registration was administratively approved following review by the IBC Chair and the Biosafety Officer.				

PI	Registration no.	Title	Amendment Type
Tempera	22401615	Epigenetic Regulation of Epstein-Barr Virus Infection	☒ Change of Personnel ☒ Change of Location
Tempera	22401616	Role of LMP1 in EBV infection	☒ Change of Personnel ☒ Change of Location
Tempera	22401617	Role of LMP1 in EBV infection, Role of NAD metabolism in EBV infection (V3)	☒ Change of Personnel ☒ Change of Location
Xu	22512664	Nanobodies as countermeasures against viral pathogens	☒ Change of Personnel ☐ Change of Location

IBC Chair Signature:

