

DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY

Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC)

IBC Meeting Minutes

August 5th, 2025	12:00 p.m.	Zoom meeting
Present: Drs. O'Donnell, Cascio, Cihil, and Yuhouse		
Absent: Drs. Samuel and Sweitzer		

1. Approval of Agenda

- A. Approved by members as start of meeting, 12:00 pm.

2. Approval of minutes from the June meeting

- A. Minutes from 4/25 and 6/25 were approved unanimously

3. Discussion of Heisler teaching protocol

- A. **Protocol for an upper level chemistry course.** Synthesis of compounds to test against bacteria. Changed the protocol so that only DH5 α *E. coli* studies will be conducted by undergraduate students. Testing against other strains that are BSL2 level agents will be conducted by TAs and the Instructor (Heisler) under a different approved protocol.

Separation of BSL1 from BSL2 that will be conducted exclusively by TA and the Instructor for logistic reasons (the BSL2 facilities cannot accommodate larger groups of students).

For this amended protocol it was asked that the PI clarify the separation of TAs and undergraduate roles and Dr. Heisler in the document by adding additional details and should add component of EHS training for all undergraduates as part of training.

Unanimously approved the amended protocol contingent on receipt and administrative approval of pending clarification and minor modifications (Motion 2)

4. Discussion of Leak protocol – Standard operating procedure for studies of misfolded aggregates of synuclein

The protocol involves work with wild-type and recombinant forms of mouse synuclein. The leak lab receives the purified synuclein from a collaborator from Univ. of Pennsylvania. Synucleins will be sonicated and injected into test animals at BSL2 level, but it is not an infectious agent. It does not pass between mice. Also has brain tissue samples from patients that succumbed to Lewy body disorders, and follows same BSL2 level protocols. For both mouse and human samples there is aerosolization of sonicated samples. Extensive discussion of whether this work is under purview of IBC or IACUC, as information was provided regarding the non-infectivity of synuclein aggregates. Since the protocol involves injection of non-infectious protein samples there appears to be no need for IBC approval. With respect to proposal, suggested 10% SDS wipes for clean-up and perhaps move sonication to BSL2 cabinet given concerns of aerosolized samples, and the PI

should provide more details about purification (as this is necessary to determine whether the material should be considered recombinant) and proof that fibrils do not migrate through the animal and shed infectious particles. Also please confirm that students are up-to-date on biosafety and animal biosafety.

Motion to reconsider protocol after response to concerns, but additional information may result in decision that it may be outside of IBC purview and be an IACUC issue and EHS issue if the protein is purified and considered non-infectious. The re-review may be administrative (if not a IBC issue) or merit reconsideration by the committee. Vote was unanimous.

5. Mentor

A. Discussion of Mentor platform

As currently configured, Mentor platform code cannot be modified – compliance with NIH is our responsibility
IT may not be qualified to alter coding

6. Meeting Adjourned

A. After being moved and seconded and unanimously approved, the meeting adjourned at ~1:00 pm

