

Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) Meeting Minutes

Date: December 3, 2025

Time: 8:00 am to 8:56 am

Location: Teams

Attendees:

Matt Finley – IBC Chair

Dr. Bindu Kumar – IBC Member

Judy Daviau – Veterinary Consultant

Lauren Merlo – IBC Member

Anthony Ashton – IBC Member

Gwendolyn Gilliard – IBC Member

Kamila Bedelbaeva – IBC Member

Guest

Dr. Amy Rosenfeld – Principal Investigator

Guest Per CMO Recommendation

Catherine Huck – MLH Infection Prevention Control

Fredy Chaparro-Rojas – MLH Infection Prevention Control

Old Business

Protocol B26-3071: Immune Response Elicited Against Picornaviruses

Protocol Overview

Matt suggested that Dr. Amy Rosenfeld, who will be joining Lankenau Institute later this month, provide a high-level overview of her protocol to clarify concerns raised by some committee members, particularly references to polio and cholera and their relation to her IACUC animal protocol.

Dr. Amy Rosenfeld clarified:

- Her protocol does not refer to polio or cholera.
- The cholera reference is from Scott Dessain's Spirulina project, unrelated to her work.
- She is a coronavirologist, studying small single-stranded positive-sense RNA viruses, including rhinovirus, Coxsackie viruses, echoviruses, and other enteroviruses that cause common childhood and adult diseases.
- Her research focuses on viral biology, cellular entry mechanisms, animal models, and potential rapid diagnostics.

Dr. Rosenfeld explained:

- The research includes in vitro and in vivo studies to generate serum for immune profiling.
- Aim: Understanding cross-reactivity among enteroviruses to potentially develop a pan-enterovirus vaccine.
- Mice and rats are used; each virus is IP inoculated in separate cages.
- The biohazard suite in the vivarium will be used for animal work.

- These viruses are human pathogens that do not replicate in mice.
Matt confirmed this would be BSL-2 work.

Risk Assessment and Safety Measures

Matt raised the issue of potential exposure.

Dr. Rosenfeld:

- Enterovirus infections are common and mostly asymptomatic; if symptomatic, treatment is supportive (rest, fluids, OTC pain medications).
- No antivirals or vaccines exist for these viruses; her lab is developing vaccines to mitigate economic impact.

Dr. Kumar asked about needle-stick risks and occupational safety.

Dr. Rosenfeld:

- Needle inoculations are used; viruses elicit immune responses but are not generally infectious to humans.
- Staff are trained in safe handling and use of needles with safety devices.

Catherine inquired about PPE:

- Dr. Rosenfeld confirmed hair nets, gowns, double gloves, and booties.
- No respirator required; no aerosolization occurs during procedures.
- Rats and mice do not sneeze, cough, or vomit, and all manipulations occur within biosafety cabinets.

Judy raised the potential family exposure concern:

- Dr. Rosenfeld noted the opposite is usually true. Children bring infections home from school/daycare, not vice versa.

Lauren questioned virus excretion and bedding handling:

- Bedding is autoclaved by Dr. Rosenfeld's staff and treated as biomedical waste.
- Standard procedure: vivarium staff handle cages after autoclaving.

Anthony asked about virus attenuation and replication:

- No attenuated or inactivated viruses are used; the study requires intact antigenic structures for immune studies.
- All viruses are non-replicative in mice, and the infection risk to humans is negligible.

Dr. Kumar and Dr. Chaparro-Rojas discussed considerations for immuno-compromised staff:

- Staff should be informed of potential risks and may opt for duty reassignment if concerned.
- Dr. Rosenfeld agreed to provide full disclosure.

Laboratory Procedures and Handling

Lauren asked about virus expansion and centrifugation procedures:

- Dr. Rosenfeld explained that all rotors have safety caps; operations and manipulations occur inside biosafety cabinets.

Catherine raised general lab safety concerns:

- Dr. Rosenfeld confirmed no eating, drinking, or mouth pipetting; standard controlled laboratory environment is maintained.

Lauren Merlo asked about virus storage:

- Viruses are stored in -80°C freezers, with lab access controlled.

Questions about personnel:

- Currently, Dr. Rosenfeld is performing all work; staff will be hired.
- Class A recirculating biosafety cabinets are appropriate for these viruses.

Committee Feedback

Matt summarized the need to incorporate feedback into the next protocol iteration:

- Clarify references to polio and cholera.
- Include greater procedural detail (needles, incubators, aerosol prevention, spills, transport, and PPE).

Anthony emphasized the need to address viral production risks and aerosols.

Judy and Lauren stressed consistency with other viral protocols and documentation of spill handling, transport, and biosafety.

Andrea requested access to vivarium standards; Matt agreed to provide the IACUC policy manual and a facility tour.

- Dr. Kumar expressed interest in joining the tour.

Discussion on respirators:

- N95s are generally not required for enteroviruses.
- Fit testing, medical evaluations, and PPE training will be conducted for all new hires.

Next Steps

Matt summarized:

- Incorporate all feedback into the existing protocol letter.
- Dr. Rosenfeld will work closely with Dr. Dessain and Matt to address all questions before the next IBC review.
- Next meeting: review the finalized protocol before approval.