Chicago State University
Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) Meeting
April 30, 2026
4:00 pm Zoom

MINUTES

Members in attendance: Levette Owusu-Ansah, Justin Bournes, Molly McDonough (Chair), Byeong Park, Christopher Botanga, Edmundo Garcia

Members on Sabbatical: Andrew Maselli, Robert Richter, Nadeem Fazal, Valeri Goss

Meeting opened with a discussion about Teaching Protocols. It was recommended that Courses (not faculty) be listed on teaching protocols to accommodate instructor changes.

We reviewed the teaching protocol for BIOL 1701 (IBC2026-001). This laboratory activity has been used in introductory biology courses at CSU for many years. It uses Bio-Rad kits for recombinant DNA and a non-pathogenic strain of E. coli. The classroom laboratory has appropriate safety equipment, including a biosafety cabinet. The Biology Department support staff assist with autoclaving waste. This protocol is exempt, and there was unanimous IBC approval.

Next, the committee reviewed research protocol (IBC2026-002). The proposal involves injecting adeno-associated virus (AAV) into mouse brains for optogenetics research. Vectors will be commercially obtained, engineered to be non-replicating and non-spreading. Mouse surgeries will be conducted in CSU's Animal facility; experiments in WCS-328 lab space. Protocol IBC2026-002 was given approval pending several items: 1) the room number listed is the classroom of her teaching protocol and needs to be changed to the research lab space, 2) Dr. Carroll's protocol is currently under review by CSU IACUC and awaiting alignment with CSU IBC, 3) the status of the Biosafety cabinet (e.g., last date of service) in Dr. Carroll's lab space needs to be confirmed to ensure BSL2 status. The committee recommended conditional approval pending these changes, as well as alignment with IACUC recommendations and departmental chair signature.

Next, the committee reviewed research protoco lBC2009-007-R26. This is a renewal of a protocol that has been active since 2009 for ALS and neurodegenerative disorder research using animal/human cell lines. Committee members noted several issues with the protocol:

- The header says "Revised August 2019"
- Please use the current IBC form. The form that was used refers to the 6th edition of the BMBL, this CSU IBC is now using the 7th edition.
- Pages 4 and 5 out of 22. "Check all that apply about your research." it appears that nothing is checked.
- Page 16 of 22. It asks "Are you using microbes?" but neither YES nor NO is selected.
- Page 18 of 22 Section D says "Note that established human cell lines are potentially infectious, as are cells from Old World Monkeys and primary human cells and tissues, and Biosafety Level 2 containment is required for handling these materials." However, boxes in the cell-line table check list "No" in the last column (potentially infectious Y/N).
- Additional issue with the cell-line table: The columns ask for passage status and a description such as "immortalized," but ATCC catalog numbers such as CRL-1573 and CRL-9609 appear to have been placed in the "Description" column. The table should identify HEK-293 and BEAS-2B as established/immortalized human cell lines and RAW264.7 as an established mouse macrophage line.
- Table Section 3. Viruses checked "Yes".
- Some BSL/RG checkboxes are left blank
- Several Y/N questions are left blank

The committee recommended clarification of the above points before the renewal is approved.

Next, the committee considered adding Dr. Anser Azim to the CSU IBC Committee roster. Adding Dr. Azim would fill a gap in animal/human cell line expertise with recombinant DNA, complementing Dr. Botanga's plant-focused recombinant DNA role. Committee members had a chance to review Dr. Azim's CV and interest statement. The committee unanimously approved that Dr. Azim would be added to the committee. We also discussed that new members should serve on the committee for at least one year before assuming co-chair roles to understand compliance escalation procedures. Chair McDonough will add the necessary information to the NIH website reflecting Dr. Azim's role on the Committee.

The Committee also had time to discuss New Business. This included a brief discussion of the accumulated chemical waste across biology, chemistry, pharmacy, and art departments. While there have been past initiatives to meet with a chemical waste company (by Mr. Holmes and department representatives), no progress has been made since the January target date. The committee noted that this is particularly important for facilitating waste removal from labs taken on by new faculty.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 5 pm.

MInutes Approved November 4th, 2026