

Lewis & Clark College
Institutional Biosafety Committee
February 27, 2026 at 10am
Annual Review Meeting Minutes

The meeting started at 10:00 am, held over Zoom.

Present: Niko Loening (Chair), Helen Rappe Baggert, Sarah Byers, Jason Holmgren, Sharon Torigoe, and Nicole Brockway (SPARC, notes). With all voting members present, a quorum was confirmed.

1. Meeting minutes from March 4, 2025 had been previously provided to IBC members and were unanimously approved.
2. Updates from the Chair: The only update from the past year was the revision of the committee's charter, following a mandate from the Executive Council to expand oversight. The annual Biosafety training was held last summer, led by Dr. Torigoe.
3. General Discussion:
 - a. The committee discussed containment and communication expectations for projects involving Risk Group 2 materials conducted in BSL-1 lab spaces. During handling of Risk Group 2 materials, laboratories should implement BSL-2 practices, including posting appropriate signage, closing doors while work is occurring, and ensuring that lab coats and eye protection is readily available.
 - b. When Risk Group 2 materials are stored in shared spaces (e.g., refrigerators or freezers), both the samples and the storage locations themselves must be clearly labeled to ensure awareness for other laboratory occupants.
 - c. The committee emphasized the importance of communicating incident reporting pathways. Reporting procedures should be included on laboratory signage where appropriate and reinforced during annual biosafety training. *Action Item: SPARC will distribute appropriate signage.*
 - d. The committee noted that while annual biosafety training provides general guidance, future protocol submissions should include more detailed, lab-specific training information and incident response procedures. This may include standardized (boilerplate) language tailored to the specific project and laboratory environment.
4. Protocol Reviews.
 - a. Greta Binford (BSP-00073): *Head group preference in recluse spider phospholipase D toxins*
 - i. Annual renewal. No changes were made to the protocol from the previous year. The General Discussion recommendations regarding Risk Group 2 practices, labeling, and signage apply to this protocol. The protocol was approved contingent upon implementation of these recommendations.
 - b. Tracy Burkhard (BSP-00082): *Burkhard Mouse Lab: specimen salvage and museum preparation*

- i. Annual renewal. No substantive changes from previous year. The same Risk Group 2 recommendations outlined for Dr. Binford's protocol apply. The protocol was approved contingent upon implementation of these recommendations.
- c. Lindy Gewin (BSP-00075): *BIO 110 course option - Search for new antibiotic-producing bacteria in soil*
 - i. Annual renewal. No substantive changes from previous year. The committee recommended that future submissions include additional detail describing how Dr. Gewin trains teaching assistants to recognize potentially harmful microorganisms on soil-derived culture plates. The protocol was approved as written.
- d. Greg Hermann (BSP-00072): *Studying the biogenesis and positioning of endosomal organelles and the germline in C. elegans*
 - i. Annual renewal. No changes from previous year. The protocol was approved as written.
- e. Sharon Torigoe (BSP-00040): *Mechanisms of Gene Regulation in Embryonic Stem Cells*
 - i. Annual renewal. The only protocol modification from the previous year is the removal of human derived cell lines from the protocol; as a result, Risk Group 2 work will no longer be conducted. No other substantive changes were noted. The protocol was approved as written.
- f. Norma Velazquez Ulloa: (BSP-00083) *Using Drosophila melanogaster to uncover genetic mechanisms of development, behavior and disease*
 - i. Annual renewal. No changes to the protocol from the previous year. The protocol was approved as written.
- g. Jean-Philippe Gourdine: (BSP-00068) *Expression of proteins using E. coli*
 - i. Annual renewal. No changes from previous approval. The protocol was approved as written.
- h. Jean-Philippe Gourdine: (BSP-00078) *Monitoring the growth of commensal bladder bacteria on host glycoproteins*
 - i. Annual renewal. No changes from previous approval. The committee advised Dr. Gourdine to ensure compliance with the Risk Group 2 labeling recommendations outlined in the General Discussion. The protocol was approved as written.
- i. Albert Bae: (BSP-00069) *The dynamics of swimming Chlamydomonas reinhardtii*.
 - i. New protocol. The committee reviewed this new protocol involving the use of *C. reinhardtii*, a single-celled algae. The project utilizes several strains without genetic modification and includes limited PCR analysis to confirm strain genotypes. No biosafety concerns were identified. The committee made a minor recommendation to update the material classification from "plant" to "other". The protocol was approved.
- j. Niko Loening (BSP-00070) *Structural Studies and Characterization of Neurotoxic Venom Peptides from Sicariidae Spiders*

- i. Annual renewal. No changes from previous approval. The project is currently inactive, with activities limited primarily to sample storage. The committee recommended that areas containing Risk Group 2 stored samples (e.g., refrigerators and shared freezers) follow the labeling recommendations outlined in the General Discussion, if not already. The protocol was approved as written.
 - ii. be clearly labeled, if not already. The protocol was approved.
- k. Niko Loening (BSP-00071) *Exploring the Structural Basis of Dynein Regulation*-annual renewal
 - i. Annual renewal. No substantive changes from previous protocol. The protocol was approved.

5. New business

- i. The NIH Modernizing Biosafety initiative is underway, with a draft policy expected to be released this summer.

6. Meeting adjourned at 10:43 am