

**San Jose State University (SJSU)**  
**Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC)**  
**November 7, 2025, Meeting Minutes**  
**Location: Zoom**  
**Start time: 1:10 PM End time: 2:05 PM**

**Members Present:** Alex Payumo, Cleber Ouverney, Edmund Tang, Yun Wang (alternate), Ningkun Wang (alternate), Wing Wan (alternate), Brandon Bonin (community), Larry Young (alternate), Kevin McCluskey (Vice-Chair) and Maria Piccone (BSO, Chair)

**Guests Present:** Miri VanHoven, Skye Kelti

The notice of the meeting was publicly posted on the IBC, Office of Research website.

**1. Biosafety Officer's news**

No incidents to report.

**2. IBC news**

The IBC Chair reminded attendees that the committee is actively searching for a new technical member, preferably from the College of Science (COS). COS generates the greatest number of BUAs overseen by the IBC. The Associate Dean for Research will check with the COS Department Chairs on a potential interim candidate.

The Vice Chair discussed the “Considerations for RSCA-Active Faculty on Leave” draft document, which contains a series of questions to consider when planning sabbatical leave.

The Chair briefed the committee on the NIH's Biosafety Modernization Initiative aimed to modernize biosafety policies and strengthen oversight in response to emerging risks from new technologies. [NIH Launches Initiative to Modernize and Strengthen Biosafety Oversight | National Institutes of Health \(NIH\)](#). As part of the Initiative, the NIH is evaluating three primary actions:

- To expand the guidance beyond traditional recombinant DNA (rDNA) and synthetic nucleic acids (NA), to potentially include WT biological agents, proteins (prions, toxins) and other possible biohazards
- To reduce management of certain low risk recombinant technologies, that based on historical safety data, are considered low risk and may no longer require oversight
- To strengthen IBCs to ensure they receive resources that they need to do their job

The Biosafety Modernization Initiative will unfold over the next year through a phased approach. At this time, NIH is working closely with the research community, biosafety offices, IBCs, and administrators to create awareness and collect feedback, either at listening sessions or through [SciencePolicy@od.nih.gov](mailto:SciencePolicy@od.nih.gov).

Members were informed about the following IBC actions:

- **BUA#11222024A** (exp date 11/21/2025). “Microbial physiology Laboratory, 127L” (every spring). Instructor: Sonia Singhal, Dept: Biology Sciences, College of Sciences. **Amendment (change of classroom) was administratively approved on 10/27/2025.** Lab inspected on October 22, 2025. Training UpToDate.
- **BUA#11222024A** (exp date 11/21/2025). “Microbial physiology Laboratory, 127L” (every spring). Instructor: Sonia Singhal, Dept: Biology Sciences, College of Sciences. **1st year Renewal -No changes to the protocol- was administratively renewed on 10/29/2025.** Lab inspected on October 22, 2025. Training UpToDate.
- **BUA#04022025** (exp date 11/7/2025). “Biomolecular engineering laboratory”. PI: Katy Kao, Dep: Chemical and Materials Engineering, College of Engineering. **Amendment (change of lab staff) was administratively approved on 10/22/2025.** Lab inspected on May 20, 2025. Training UpToDate.
- **BUA#04022025** (exp date 11/7/2025). “Biomolecular engineering laboratory”. PI: Katy Kao, Dep: Chemical and Materials Engineering, College of Engineering. **1st year Renewal -No changes to the protocol- was administratively approved on 10/23/2025.** Lab inspected on May 20, 2025. Training UpToDate.
- **BUA#12132024A** (exp date 12/12/2025). Advanced Biology Laboratory, Biol 255L (spring semester). Instructor: Jae Chung/ Bree Grillo Hill, Dept: Biology Sciences, College of Sciences. **Amendment (change of title and instructor on record) was administratively approved on 10/30/2025.** Lab inspected on May 22, 2025. Training UpToDate.
- **NEW Research Proposal.** “Effects of human-induced rapid environmental changes on avian health, physiology and behavior”. PI: Gabrielle Names, Dept. of Biology Sciences, College of Sciences. **Exempt.** Lab inspection pending. Training UpToDate.

The Chair sought a motion to approve the IBC actions. The motion was seconded.

**The committee unanimously voted to approve the actions.**

### 3. **Old Business. Review of minutes from the previous meeting on October 3, 2025**

The Chair sought a motion to approve the 10032025 minutes. The motion was seconded.

**The committee unanimously voted to approve the minutes.**

### 4. **New Business**

**BUA#11082024A** (exp date 11/7/2025). “Molecular and cellular regulators of cardiac muscle cell division”. PI: Alex Payumo, Dept: Biology Sciences, College of Sciences. **Amendment.** This amendment required a full committee review due to the nature of the proposed changes, specifically the addition of new work (i.e., mouse and human stem cell) and because the changes fall under the scope of the NIH Guidelines.

*Primary reviewer: Cleber Ouverney - Secondary reviewer: Brandon Bonin*

**Applicable NIH guidelines:** III-D, III-F

**Biosafety level 2 (BSL-2)** - Human cells, human induced pluripotent stem cell lines

PI recused himself from the meeting.

Research involving cellular and molecular mechanisms in cardiac tissue. Research in progress.  
Research with potential biomedical applications.

Lab personnel wear appropriate PPE, such as gloves, lab coats, and eye protection, at all times. The lab has established procedures for decontamination and biohazardous waste disposal. Liquid waste is treated with bleach at a final concentration of 10% before drain disposal. Surfaces are decontaminated with freshly prepared 10 % bleach or 70% Ethanol. Solid waste is autoclaved by the MSC staff. Procedures for aerosol containment include use of certified biosafety cabinet, capped tubes, seal tubes, rotors, and pipette tips with filters. Procedures for responding and managing spills are appropriate. Training, which includes Bloodborne Pathogen, CITI Initial Biosafety and r/s DNA guidelines, is up to date. The lab was inspected on June 6, 2025.

The following will be communicated to the PI:

- o In the Main BUA, page 2, the “BMBL” link is broken. Please replace with [Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories—6th Edition \(cdc.gov\)](https://www.cdc.gov/microbiology/biosafety/biosafety-in-microbiological-and-biomedical-laboratories-6th-edition/)
- o In Main BUA, page 3, a check mark has been placed in a box for attachment G “Project involves laboratory animals...”; but the attachment was not submitted. Please send this attachment showing changes -if applicable.
- o In Main BUA, page 4, “Experimental Procedures and Research Methodology” section, the use of "OR" when the work plan is testing different scenarios, can be confusing. Since the plan is to test all cell lines and chemicals listed (until the optimal protocol is established), the BUA should say "AND" (instead of OR).
- o In the Main BUA, page 5, “Hazard and Risk Assessment” section, consider adding the use of pipet tips with filters to prevent aerosols among the safety measures
- o In the Main BUA, page 10, “Work surfaces, instruments, equipment” section, you may uncheck the box for “Bleach + rinse with 70% alcohol”, “after spill” box for the “Benchtop column”. It should check the box for the "Stainless Surface" column for the biosafety cabinet.
- o In the Main BUA, page 10, “Work surfaces, instruments, equipment” section, check the “Quaternary Ammonium Agents” box and complete section, since you have checked the “after use” box.
- o In the Main BUA, page 10, “Protective Equipment” section, clarify: ☒ Other: List additional PPE used in the lab
- o In the Main BUA, page 11, “Biosafety Cabinet Information” section, correct the Certification Expiration Date to 8/5/2026
- o In the Main BUA, page 13, the “SJSU Waste Management Program” link is broken. Replace with [SJSU Waste Management Program](#).
- o In Attachment A, page 3, “Genes” section, in the sentence “The genes will be expressed in primary cardiomyocytes derived *from mice* and rats following appropriate BSL-2 procedures, add “*in vitro*”. Will primary cardiomyocytes from mice be used in this work? Will the genes also be expressed in the human cell lines? Clarify
- o In Attachment A, page 4, “Hosts” section, should “mouse” be deleted from the sentence “primary rat or *mouse* cardiomyocyte”?

- o In Attachment A, page 4, clarify the sentence “Common *non-K-12 lab* strains (i.e., ccdB Survival 2 T1, *DH5 alpha*), since the DH5 $\alpha$  strain is a genetically modified derivative of the *E coli* K-12 strain.
- o In the SOP for Work with BSL-1 agents, page 2, “mouse” and “mice” were crossed out in all documents. Should it be crossed out here also
- o Clarify in the SOPs the 10% bleach solution used for surface disinfection must be prepared fresh at least once every 24 hours.

The Vice Chair sought a motion to approve this amendment. The motion was seconded.

**The committee unanimously voted to approve the amendment** (pending the minor modifications listed above)