

NKU Institution Biosafety Committee  
June 12, 2025, 12:30 – 1:30  
Zoom

First Name	Last Name	Role	Present
<b>IBC Members</b>			
Michael	Guy, Ph.D.	Scientist	Yes
Joe	Mester, Ph.D.	Chair	Yes
Audra	Points	Environmental Health and Safety Dept. Representative	Yes
Michael	Ware, Ph.D.	EPA/General Public Representative	No
Allison	Worthy	Lab Staff Representative	Yes
Justin	Yates, Ph.D.	Faculty Member Representative	Yes
Sabine	Zacate, Ph.D.	General Public Representative	Yes
<b>NKU Staff</b>			
Anita	Southwick	Manager of Research Compliance, IBC Administrator	Yes
Erica	Taylor	RGC, Specialist	Yes

**I. Review/Approval of Minutes (06/03/2024)**

Minutes and action items from the previous meeting were reviewed. Most action items have been completed; several remain in progress. Updates to the IBC Internal Audit were noted.

- **Motion:** Michael Guy moved to approve the minutes.
- **Second:** Audra Points seconded.

**II. IBC Current Protocols**

Two new renewals were submitted and approved. Joe Mester opened the meeting to discuss the protocols. No comments were made.

Protocol #	PI Last Name	PI First Name	Project Title
2022-03	Guy	Michael	Identification of Novel tRNA Modification Genes in Human and Animal Cells
2022-04	Shelton	Catherine	Characterization of the Isomerase and Lyase Mechanisms of MST Enzymes
2025-01	Williamson	Lauren	Role of commensalist parasites in a model of neonatal infection
2025-02	Yates	Justin	GluN2B subunit as mediator of risky choice and resurgence of cocaine seeking

**III. Transition to Mentor IBC**

- Anita Southwick discussed the transition to the Mentor IBC system.
- Over the next 3–4 months, she will review SOPs
- Members were asked to forward any issues encountered with the new system.
- Benefits: improved tracking of researcher lists, annual report reminders, etc.
- Note: The BAR form will still be used and uploaded into Mentor.

#### IV. Roundtable Updates

a. NIH Guidelines & CDC Biosafety Manual – Joe Mester

- New requirement: IBC minutes must be posted on a publicly accessible website (to be posted on the NIH IBC site).
- Considered but declined recording meetings for reference.
- CDC Biosafety Manual: Version 6 released; BAR form needs updates.
- NIH Guidelines (April 2024): Expanded requirements for tracking gene editing; additional guidance on containment of BSL-2 organisms.

b. NKU Safety & Emergency Management – Audra Points

- Biowaste procedures, SOPs, and quarterly waste pickup updates now online.
- Electrical shutdown for new building had positive outcomes: improved monitoring; critical scientific equipment added to generators (including vivarium).
- Biosafety hoods repaired; certification expected July/August.
- PPE updates: changes regarding methylene chloride. Recommendation: discontinue use in teaching labs; establish a monitored chemical use area.

c. NKU Chemistry – Michael Guy

- No new department updates.
- Expressed concern about impact of NIH proposed budget cuts on research.
- Preparing to submit R15 proposal within the week.

d. NKU Biological Sciences – Allison Worthy

- Developing SOP for autoclave; user log implemented; spore preps to continue annually.
- Only one autoclave operational; may be down during construction—Lindsey to confirm.
- Options being explored: temporary outsourcing of hazardous waste disposal; possible use of Founders Hall for media-only waste to avoid tunnel transport; vivarium cannot accommodate animal waste.
- If classes are in session, pickups may need to increase to 2–3 times/week.

- Discussion points: potential rental autoclave; possible use of AP funds; long-term funding for new autoclave (est. \$80–100K including installation, awaiting quotes).
  - Current quarterly pickup: red bags/body parts/sharps by Green Leaf Environmental. Audra to obtain quote for increased temporary pickups.
  - Reminder: use caution when autoclaving non-pathogenic yeast. Pathogens must be properly treated (e.g., bleaching) to prevent growth—err on side of caution.
- e. NKU Psychological Science – Justin Yates
- BSE certifications scheduled for August.
- f. EPA Community – Sabine Zacate
- Provided update from Thomas More University.
  - No recombinant DNA research currently conducted; therefore, no IBC oversight required at this time. Future needs may arise.

## V. Other Items

- Joe Mester reported that due to the recent electrical outage and construction, all Biology freezers were reorganized, and unneeded items were discarded or autoclaved.

## VI. Action Items

- Update the first page of the BAR form to reflect new CDC categories.
- Allison will investigate potential steam impact in rooms housing autoclaves.

## VII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 1:19 p.m.