

INSTITUTIONAL BIOSAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga
Minutes
November 10, 2025
ZOOM

I. CALL TO ORDER: 1:01 PM

II. ATTENDANCE:

MEMBERS PRESENT: *Affiliated:* David Giles (Chair), Jose Barbosa, Jess Sanders

Non-Affiliated: Jennifer Eve, Darrell McGraw

Ex-Officio: Cheryl Murphy

MEMBERS ABSENT: *Affiliated:* Brad Harris

VISITORS: Julia Jones, Paula Jo Peters

III. APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 22, 2025 MINUTES:

A. Motion: Approve minutes as written

B. Vote: In Favor=5 Against=0 Abstentions=1

IV. APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 27, 2025 MINUTES:

A. No minutes to approve. Quorum was not met, no business was conducted.

V. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT:

A. *Approvals (FCR):*

a. **25-05: Dr. Samuel David; Western Blotting, Cell Culture, Molecular Biology Techniques for Apoptosis and ALS Projects.** Approved October 9, 2025.

B. *Administrative Approvals:* (modifications, AR reviews, annual updates)

a. **24-06: Dr. Luis Sanchez Diaz; Viscoelasticity of bacteria E. coli and the antibiotic response.** Annual update approved October 2, 2025.

b. **24-08: Dr. Bradley Harris: Producing organic sweeteners from yeast.** Annual update approved October 10, 2025

c. **24-07: Dr. David Giles: Pathogen Monitoring on Environmental Surfaces in Clinics.** Amendment approved October 15, 2025.

d. **24-11: Dr. Ritu Sharma: 4530L/Protein and Nucleic Acids Laboratory.** Annual update approved October 31, 2025.

e. **23-01: Dr. David Giles: BIOL 4220-Principles of Microbiology Laboratory.** Amendment approved November 3, 2025.

f. **25-06: Dr. Sean Richards: BIOL 4380L-Toxicology Laboratory.** Administrative Review; Approved November 4, 2025.

g. **23-11: Dr. David Giles: Investigating the physiological and behavioral impacts of polyunsaturated fatty acids (PUFAs) on the fish and human pathogen *Aeromonas hydrophila*.** Amendment approved November 6, 2025.

C. *Inspections conducted:*

a. **Grote 406** on September 25, 2025

- b. **Grote 104** on October 29, 2025

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Welcome to Paula Jo Peters from the College of Nursing, who is interested in becoming a member of the IBC.
- B. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE ON THE IBC!** Drs. Margaret Kovach and Henry Spratt stepped off the IBC on November 1, 2025. Darrell McGraw will also be stepping off the committee once a new unaffiliated member is found.
- C. **New Registration:**
- a. **25-07: Dr. Andrew Turgeson; Development of Antimicrobial Coatings for Clinical Floors**
 - b. All have completed CITI Training;
 - c. BSL-2; Note any special provisions
 - d. For non-rsDNA projects: (summarize):
 - i. The project will be determining the effect of coating acrylic floor tiles with specific antimicrobial coatings (ZnO) on the survival of *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Escherichia coli* and *Bacillus subtilis*. These bacteria have been isolated from floors of healthcare clinics through previous research at UTC. Three treatments will be used: Controls (no addition of antimicrobial agents), Experimental controls (addition of the floor polymeric coatings, without antimicrobial agent) and Experimental (Differing concentrations of ZnO antimicrobial agent will be added).
 - e. Additional committee concerns/corrections needed:
 - i. Section B4: Second paragraph, second sentence: Regarding 'flaming tubes and petri dishes', where will that activity take place (e.g. on the bench top, within the biological safety cabinet or somewhere else)? How will that occur? Are you using a Bunsen burner, alcohol lamp?
 - ii. General IBC registration thought: Would be beneficial to include in the registration a description of the disease/potential consequences of exposure for agents being used. There is a required question with in DASH Research Safety that will provide this information once UTC starts using the module.
 - iii. General IBC registration thought: Could be beneficial for the IBC to provide general SOPs regarding the use of BSCs, microplate readers, etc.
 - iv. Discussed additional tasks the hosting Dept will need to do for Dr. Spratt to participate in the research: Complete the Visitors Engaged in Research review; Non-worker status in DASH and registration with State of TN Division of Claims and Risk Management.
 - v. Section B4: Last paragraph: Expand upon who Dr. Spratt will be training: will he be training everyone listed on the protocol, or will he train all faculty/staff, who will then train the students? Or other?
 - vi. B4: The IBC recognizes using ZnO is not, in and of itself, hazardous. But the committee would like to see a brief discussion regarding when ZnO coating is prepared and applied, does that conjugation with other materials create circumstances that are more harmful? If so, what safety precautions would be put into place to address this?
 - f. Determination
 - i. Motion: Modifications requested with review by FCR.

ii. Vote: In favor=5 Against= Abstentions=1

D. Three-Year Renewal Registration:

- a. **25-08: Dr. David Giles; Examining the Synergistic Effects of Antimicrobials and Polyunsaturated Fatty Acids on Gram-Negative Bacteria**
- b. Dr. Giles left meeting.
- c. All but two of the investigators have completed CITI Training
- d. BSL-2; Note any special provisions
- e. For non-rsDNA projects: (summarize)
 - i. Investigating the synergistic potential of polyunsaturated fatty acids (PUFAs) and antimicrobials by conducting minimal inhibitory concentration broth dilution assays in 96-well plates. The overall goal is to identify the PUFA/antibiotic combinations that cause significant changes in antimicrobial resistance in *Vibrio cholerae* O1 El Tor.
- f. Additional committee concerns/corrections needed
- g. Determination
 - i. Motion: Approve as submitted
 - ii. Vote: In favor=4 Against=0 Abstentions=1
- h. Dr. Giles returned to meeting

E. Informational Item: Per NIH Guidelines FAQs, IBCs cannot use email to vote on protocol approvals or conducting official business.

F. Update on Research Integrity Compliance Officer position

G. DASH Research Safety:

- a. Go-Live: November 10, 2025
- b. Registration Submission Training and Lunch: December 4, 2025 in the Southern Writer's Room (Library) from 11:30-1:00.
- c. January 12, 2025: Use DASH Research Safety for all IBC registration submissions, amendments and reviews.
- d. Committee Training with the module

VII. NEXT MEETINGS:

- a. November 24, 2025
- b. December 4, 2025 – DASH Research Demo Training and lunch
- c. December 22, 2025?? Suggest rescheduling to December 8
- d. January 26, 2026

VIII. ADJOURNMENT: 1:58 PM