

INSTITUTIONAL BIOSAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga

April 27, 2026 Minutes

UTC Library Room 440/ZOOM

I. CALL TO ORDER: 1:22 PM

II. ATTENDANCE:

MEMBERS PRESENT: *Affiliated: Brad Harris, Davy Giles, Jessica Sanders, Paula Jo Peters, Jose Barbosa*

Non-Affiliated: Jennifer Eve

Ex-Officio: Cheryl Murphy, Brandon Williams

III. APPROVAL OF MARCH 23, 2026 AND MARCH 30, 2026 MINUTES:

A. Motion: *Approve as written.*

B. Vote: In Favor- 6 Against- 0 Abstentions- 2

IV. OLD BUSINESS: *None*

V. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT:

A. *Approvals (FCR):*

a. SPROTO202600000002 (New Registration, Jose Barbosa, Cell Lab, Approved 4/6/2026)

B. *Administrative Approvals:*

a. SAMEND202600000004 (Amendment, David Giles, UTC 25-02: PUFA Impacts on Vibrio cholerae, Approved 4/1/2026)

b. SAMEND202600000003 (Amendment, D. Giles, UTC 24-03: Antimicrobial effect of cobalt compounds, Approved 4/1/2026)

c. SAMEND202600000005 (Amendment, David Giles, UTC 25-08: Synergistic Antimicrobial/PUFA Effects, Approved 4/1/2026)

d. SPROTO202500000008/UTC 23-04 (Closure, Jannatul Ferdoush, UTC 23-04: UPS and Gene Expression Regulation, Closed 4/2/2026)

C. *Inspections conducted:*

a. Holt 108 (Inspected 4/7/2026)

b. Holt 305C (Inspected 4/7/2026)

No questions or concerns were raised regarding the administrative report.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. **New Registration:**

a. SPROTO202600000008, David Giles, BIOL 4220L – Principles of Microbiology Lab

b. All training is current for study team members.

c. BSL-1 and BSL-2

d. No Biosafety Cabinet is available in the teaching lab; therefore, no aerosol-generating procedures (centrifugation, vortexing of open cultures) are permitted with BSL-2 agents. Students trained in aseptic technique with emphasis on minimizing aerosol generation during loop flaming. Access restricted to times when a professor is present. Required PPE: lab coats (autoclaved each semester), safety glasses (UV-disinfected after each session), and gloves. Work surfaces disinfected before and after each exercise. Students must complete CITI Biosafety Training for Laboratory Courses by week 3. At-risk population disclosure required at course enrollment (immunocompromised, immunosuppressed, pregnant individuals).

- e. For non-rsDNA projects: This is a non-rDNA teaching protocol. No recombinant or synthetic nucleic acids are used; all agents are confirmed non-recombinant and non-synthetic.
- i. *Escherichia coli* (BSL 1): serial dilutions, CFU counting, spectrophotometry
 - ii. *Bacillus subtilis* (BSL 1): staining, environmental stress, pure culture prep
 - iii. *Staphylococcus aureus* (BSL 2): gram staining, unknowns exercise
 - iv. *Serratia marcescens* (BSL 1): streak plate isolation, lab exams
 - v. *Enterococcus faecalis* (BSL 2): inoculation of tubes, slants, plates, unknowns
 - vi. *Micrococcus luteus* (BSL 1): inoculation, metabolic characterization
 - vii. *Staphylococcus epidermidis* (BSL 1): streak plate isolation, lab exams
 - viii. *Alcaligenes faecalis* (BSL 1): inoculation, unknowns exercise
 - ix. *Bacillus cereus* (BSL 1): inoculation, unknowns exercise
 - x. *Citrobacter freundii* (BSL 1): inoculation, unknowns exercise
 - xi. *Corynebacterium xerosis* (BSL 1): inoculation, unknowns exercise
 - xii. *Enterobacter aerogenes* (BSL 1): inoculation, unknowns exercise
 - xiii. *Klebsiella pneumoniae* (BSL 2): inoculation, unknowns exercise
 - xiv. *Proteus vulgaris* (BSL 2): inoculation, unknowns exercise
 - xv. *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (BSL 2): inoculation, unknowns exercise
 - xvi. *Salmonella enteritidis* (BSL 2): inoculation, unknowns exercise
 - xvii. *Shigella sonnei* (BSL 2): inoculation, unknowns exercise
 - xviii. *Streptococcus mutans* (BSL 1): inoculation of tubes, slants, plates
 - xix. *Clostridium sporogenes* (BSL 1): oxygen tolerance assessment (anaerobic growth)
 - xx. *Geobacillus stearothermophilus* (BSL 1): temperature tolerance assessment
 - xxi. *Mycobacterium phlei* (BSL 1): acid-fast staining only
 - xxii. *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* (BSL 1): osmotic stress/salt concentration survival
 - xxiii. Blood (sheep) in TSA agar (BSL 1): hemolysis assessment
 - xxiv. General manipulations across all agents include inoculation of broth tubes, agar slants, and plates using aseptic technique; cultural and metabolic characterization using selective/differential media and chemical reagents; staining procedures (Gram, acid-fast); assessment of growth under environmental stressors (pH, UV, osmotic stress, temperature, oxygen); serial dilutions and colony-forming unit counts; and identification of unknown bacterial cultures as a major semester exercise. All work is conducted in the teaching lab and in the incubator/refrigerator room, with culture preparation occurring in the microbiology prep lab. All agents are sourced from ATCC as certified reference strains and none are select agents.
- f. Additional committee concerns/corrections needed
- i. *The PI recused himself at 1:45 PM.*
 - ii. *The Committee agreed that a statement should be added to the section on handling and decontaminating biological waste stating that it will be done as directed in the BGE protocol.*
 - iii. *The Committee agreed that information should be added to the section on biocontainment techniques and control measures regarding the transport of materials.*
 - iv. *The Committee agreed that the PPE information found in the Risk Group and Containment Practices section should be moved to Exposure Assessment and Protective Equipment.*
 - v. *The Committee agreed that a co-investigator should be removed from the registration as they are leaving the university.*

- vi. *Additionally, the Committee agreed to have a general discussion on Item 7 under Basic Information at the next meeting to decide how much information is required in regards to both teaching and research registrations.*
- g. Determination
 - i. *Motion: Approve pending modifications; with administrative review upon completion of the modifications required.*
 - ii. *Vote: In favor- 5 Against- 0 Abstentions- 2*

B. Additional items for discussion

- a. *Non-Affiliated Member Referrals – The Committee was asked to reach out to potential non-affiliated members or to refer them to the ORI staff for recruitment purposes.*
- b. *IBC SOP #4 – Laboratory Inspections - Discussion Tabled*
- c. *IBC SOP #5 – Escalation Procedures for Noncompliance - Discussion Tabled*

VII. NEXT MEETING: May 18, 2026 (*This is 3rd Monday of May – the 4th Monday falls on Memorial Day*)

VIII. ADJOURNMENT: 2:09 PM