ALBANY COLLEGE OF PHARMACY AND HEALTH SCIENCES

INSTITUTIONAL BIOSAFETY COMMITTEE

DATE: October 5, 2026	TIME: 12:00-1:00 PM	LOCATION: Virtual (Zoom)

MEMBERS PRESENT:

- ☒ Nick O'Donnell, Associate Prof., Pharmacy Practice, Chair and voting member
- ☒ Rachel Toshkoff, Laboratory Safety Officer and Biological Safety Officer, voting member
- ☒ Michelle Parent, Associate Prof. and Chair, Dept. of Allied Health Sciences, voting member
- ☐ Michelle Lewis, Executive Director of CBET, voting member
- ☒ Marcel Musteata, Associate Professor, Pharmaceutical Sciences, voting member
- ☐ Mary Ellen Piche, unaffiliated community voting member
- ☒ Andrew Peifer, unaffiliated community voting member
- ☒ Vir Singh, Director of Research Compliance and Safety, non-voting member
- ☒ Shannon Magari, Colden Corporation, Biosafety Consultant, non-voting member

CALL TO ORDER TIME: 12:09 PM

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST: Vir Singh (non-voting member)- provided feedback on Shi and Malik LPSAs, responded to questions regarding Singh LPSA.

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LABORATORY PROTOCOL SAFETY ASSESSMENTS

LPSA For Review: HIV and Retrovirus Study
PI: Binshan Shi
Project Overview: This study investigates HIV-1 infection and cell-to-cell transmission, using established human cell lines and primary human macrophages as experimental models. Researchers will generate and use HIV-1 reporter viruses to infect immune and other human cells and will examine how infected cells transmit HIV-1 directly to neighboring, uninfected cells. The study will compare transmission between different types of immune cells and assess the resulting effects on viral replication, cellular viability, and cell death. A range of molecular and cellular assays, including flow cytometry, PCR, real-time PCR, luciferase assays, and Western blotting, will be used to measure infection and characterize cellular responses.
Training Records for Lab Personnel: All staff training up to date
Biosafety Level Assignments: BSL2+
Results of Laboratory Inspections: Passed
Vote for Approval: ☐ **Approve the registration as-is** ☒ **Approve the registration pending the following changes or conditions to be met:** ☐ **Defer registration pending additional information from the PI:**
Changes or Corrections Requested: • Add units to quantities on biologicals list • Correct typo in disinfection procedures to say bleach *or* Simple Green d Pro 5 • Add specific safety procedures for equipment, compressed gas and thermal hazards • Add language for exposure response to emergency procedures

Vote proposed by: Nick O'Donnell	**Seconded By: Michelle Parent**
Votes for YES: Nick O'Donnell, Michelle Parent, Rachel Toshkoff, Marcel Musteata, Andrew Peifer	
Votes for NO: N/A	

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LPSA For Review: Repression of inflammasome by *Francisella tularensis*
PI: Meenakshi Malik
Project Overview: This project will use Francisella tularensis Live Vaccine Strain (Ft LVS), a BSL-2 attenuated strain, as a model to study the mechanisms underlying tularemia pathogenesis and host defense. The investigators hypothesize that suppression of the inflammasome by F. tularensis promotes intracellular bacterial survival and contributes to disease. The studies will examine how Ft suppresses AIM2-mediated immunity and how NLRP3 activation contributes to harmful effects on the host. Findings are intended to improve understanding of F. tularensis pathogenic mechanisms and support development of improved therapeutics and vaccines for tularemia.
Training Records for Lab Personnel: All staff trainings up to date
Biosafety Level Assignments: BSL2
Results of Laboratory Inspections: Passed
Vote for Approval: ☐ **Approve the registration as-is** ☒ **Approve the registration pending the following changes or conditions to be met:** ☐ **Defer registration pending additional information from the PI:**
Changes or Corrections Requested: • Update personnel list to reflect new lab staff and remove graduate staff • Fix typo for bleach concentration from 1:100 to 1:10 • Change MSDS To SDS in Chemical Hazards section • Remove language about N95 respirators, as they are not currently used in the lab • Add Simple Green d Pro 5 to list of chemicals
Vote proposed by: Nick O'Donnell | **Seconded By: Michelle Parent**
Votes for YES: Nick O'Donnell, Michelle Parent, Rachel Toshkoff, Marcel Musteata, Andrew Peifer
Votes for NO: N/A

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LPSA For Review: Molecular mechanisms associated with HIV-1 latency and pathogenesis
PI: Vir Singh
Project Overview: This study investigates HIV-1 latency, viral replication, and HIV-associated inflammation, with the overarching goal of identifying mechanisms that could contribute to a functional cure for HIV. Researchers will examine how the cellular signaling pathways involving NRF-2, NF-κB, and IRF-3 influence HIV latency and reactivation, including whether activation of NRF-2 by sulforaphane (SFN) can suppress HIV transcription and maintain infected cells in a latent state. The study will use latently infected cell lines, primary human CD4 T cells, de-identified samples from people living with HIV who are receiving antiretroviral therapy, and microglial cell models to evaluate these mechanisms. A second major focus is determining whether maintaining HIV latency in microglial cells can reduce persistent inflammation and protect neurons from HIV-associated damage.
Training Records for Lab Personnel: All staff trainings up to date
Biosafety Level Assignments: BSL2+
Results of Laboratory Inspections: Passed
Vote for Approval: ☐ **Approve the registration as-is** ☒ **Approve the registration pending the following changes or conditions to be met:** ☐ **Defer registration pending additional information from the PI:**
Changes or Corrections Requested: • Update personnel list to reflect new lab staff and remove graduate staff • Add SFN full name and add to chemical list • Add units to quantities on biologicals list • Correct typo in disinfection procedures to say bleach *or* Simple Green d Pro 5 • Add specific safety procedures for compressed gas section • Remove language about masks, as they are not currently used in the lab • Put N/A for Animal hazards section • Add signature to Appendix B
Vote proposed by: Nick O'Donnell | **Seconded By: Michelle Parent**
Votes for YES: Nick O'Donnell, Michelle Parent, Rachel Toshkoff, Marcel Musteata, Andrew Peifer
Votes for NO: N/A

MEETING AJOURNED (TIME): 1:01 PM