

**COMS meeting on 3/27/2026**  
**Minutes**

**Location:** ZOOM

**Time:** 10AM - 12PM

Harvard University Committee on Microbiological Safety (COMS)

[COMS@hms.harvard.edu](mailto:COMS@hms.harvard.edu)

**Documentation of Quorum**

**Total Voting Members on Committee Roster:** 30

**Total Needed for Quorum:** 10

**Total Present at Call to Order:** 35

**Members Arriving After Call to Order:** 2

Total Guests and Members of Public: 3

| ATTENDEES PRESENT               |                                 |                                       |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Committee Chair                 |                                 | Committee Vice Chair                  |
| • S. Helaine                    |                                 | • R. Rasmussen                        |
| Members                         |                                 |                                       |
| • A. Baptista (IBC Member)      | • R. Lee (IBC Member)           | • K. Pritchett-Corning (IBC Member)   |
| • D. Barbeau (IBC Member)       | • Y. Lu (IBC Member)            | • A. Reid (Biosafety Officer)         |
| • S. Bhalchandra (IBC Member)   | • M. Melisi (Biosafety Officer) | • S. Santra (IBC Member)              |
| • T. Brennan-Krohn (IBC Member) | • S. Mohr (IBC Member)          | • J. Sixsmith (IBC Member)            |
| • C. Colgrove (IBC Member)      | • B. Neugeboren (IBC Member)    | • M. Super (IBC Member)               |
| • M. Dorf (IBC Member)          | • M. Nilsen (IBC Member)        | • C. Walsh (IBC Member)               |
| • L. Gamer (IBC Member)         | • J. Park (IBC Member)          | • T. Winters (IBC Member)             |
| • J. Kirby (IBC Member)         | • R. Polak (IBC Member)         | T. Kwan (Local Non-Affiliated member) |
| Ex Officios                     |                                 |                                       |
| • B. Corning                    | • M. Carrigan                   | • S. Elwell                           |
| • E. Macleod                    | • S. Estime                     | • N. Tremblay                         |

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 A.M.

The meeting is now open for discussion.

**Introduction of Guests**

No guests were introduced.

**Meeting Minutes for Approval**

| Meeting                   | Minutes Approved | Link to Minutes      |
|---------------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| COMS meeting on 1/30/2026 | yes              | <a href="#">Link</a> |

**Scheduled Business**

| Type                                                 | COMS #     | Title                                                   | PI            | Institution                                | Motion                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|------------------------------------------------------|------------|---------------------------------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Appointed Review Protocols Involving Recombinant DNA | 21-107-A67 | Discovery of New Biosynthetic Pathways and Enzymes 2021 | Emily Balskus | Harvard Faculty of Arts and Sciences (FAS) | The lab uses bacteria to characterize enzymes and discover new chemical transformations & pathways. Two new bacteria are added with this amendment. Low risk genes for enzymes from various human bacterial vaginosis Prevotella species will be cloned into Segatella copri to study these enzymes' role in detoxification of reactive oxygen species. This falls under Section III-D of the NIH Guidelines and will be |

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|                                                      |            |                                              |                  |                                            | <p>conducted under BL2 per COMS policies and institutional biosafety manuals.</p> <p>The committee had no other comments or questions about this protocol. A motion was made to approve the protocol. The committee voted.</p> <p>Approved: 18<br/>Against: 0<br/>Abstentions: 1</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Appointed Review Protocols Involving Recombinant DNA | 22-040-A07 | Structural Biology of RNA Mediated Processes | Victoria D'Souza | Harvard Faculty of Arts and Sciences (FAS) | <p>This amendment adds a SARS-CoV-2 virus replicon system that is missing the spike protein. This allows for the single-round infection of cells in culture for study of viral RNAs within cells without the possibility of creating infectious SARS-CoV-2 particles. This falls under Section III-D of the NIH Guidelines and will be conducted under BL2 per COMS policies and institutional biosafety manuals.</p> <p>The committee discussed the single-cycle replicon virus particles that are described in the papers and the vectors' specific design to carry out SARS-CoV-2 at BL2 containment. These single cycle replicon systems are much safer than using the infectious virus.</p> <p>A member questioned why this study was being considered as DURC by the appointed reviewer. The reviewer stated that single-round could be infectious and has the potential to be misused. In addition, high volume and high titer stocks could cause splash exposure. Another committee member noted that single-cycle replicon systems are widely used and are much safer compared to using the whole genome and infectious virus. Using this replicon system is far less risky compared to using infectious virus and BL2 containment is appropriate for this work. It does not sustain infection and is limited to a certain number of cells. To this extent, it is a safe system.</p> <p>The occupational safety aspects of the project were also considered. Clinically, post-exposure prophylaxis has been proven ineffective in random controlled trials and is inappropriate for post-exposure medical care. If the lab were conducting experiments of higher risk, then a different exposure treatment might be warranted. However, as presented, this does not appear to be warranted for the work. The committee discussed past reviews of SARS-CoV-2 experiments. If the lab were to produce virus, a new COMS protocol would be proposed. The committee discussed the scientific content of the protocol.</p> <p>After discussion, the committee determined this study was not DURC and the protocol was not required to be altered. The reviewer recommends approval of the project.</p> <p>The committee had no other comments or questions about this protocol. A motion was made to approve the protocol. The committee voted.</p> <p>Approved: 16<br/>Against: 0<br/>Abstentions: 3</p> |
| Appointed Review Protocols                           | 23-058-A05 | Molecular Genetic and Biochemical            | John Mekalanos   | Harvard Medical                            | <p>A member associated with this study was placed in a Zoom waiting room before the discussion of this protocol.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

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| Involving Recombinant DNA                           |            | Studies of Bacterial Pathogenesis and Resistance                                                                                                                                    |             | School (HMS)                                              | <p>The lab studies the molecular mechanisms of <i>Vibrio cholerae</i> pathogenesis. This amendment expands the scope of work to include in vitro and in vivo studies involving a marine bacterium associated with disease in shrimp. Experiments include targeted deletion of toxin genes followed by administration of recombinant strains to shrimp to evaluate the role of these toxins in virulence and disease progression. Environmental stipulations have been added to the approval letter. This work falls under Section III-D of the NIH Guidelines, and will be conducted under BL1 and BL1-N per COMS policies and institutional biosafety manuals.</p> <p>The committee had no other comments or questions about this protocol. A motion was made to approve the protocol. The committee voted.</p> <p>Approved: 18<br/>Against: 0<br/>Abstentions: 1</p> <p>A member associated with this study was brought back into the meeting post vote.</p> |
| Standard Review Protocols Involving Recombinant DNA | 21-063-A05 | Study of Stem and Progenitor Cell Gene Expression and Protein Production in Repair and Regeneration of Cardiac, Muscle and Endothelial tissue in Vertebrate Development and Disease | Richard Lee | Harvard Faculty of Arts and Sciences (FAS)                | <p>This lab studies repair and regeneration of cardiac and endothelial tissue, as well as muscle cells. This amendment adds two new human cell lines for organoid formation for imaging of 3D structures (one genetically modified and one not). The amendment also adds several new genetically modified human induced pluripotent stem cell lines for in vitro and in vivo work. Work will be conducted under BL1, BL1-N, BL2 and BL2-N per COMS policies and institutional biosafety manuals. The work falls under Sections III-D, III-E and III-F of the NIH Guidelines.</p> <p>The committee had no other comments or questions about this protocol. A motion was made to approve the protocol. The committee voted.</p> <p>Approved: 19<br/>Against: 0<br/>Abstentions: 0</p>                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Standard Review Protocols Involving Recombinant DNA | 22-011-A09 | Studying the specificity of regulatory protein degradation                                                                                                                          | Ying Lu     | Harvard Medical School (HMS)                              | <p>This amendment adds new human cells modified with lentiviral vectors targeting low risk genes to study the effect those genes have on tumor formation. The modified cells will be injected into transgenic mice models. This work falls under Sections III-D and III-F of the NIH Guidelines and will be conducted at BL1, BL1N, BL2 and BL2N per COMS policies and institutional biosafety manuals.</p> <p>The committee had no other comments or questions about this protocol. A motion was made to approve the protocol. The committee voted.</p> <p>Approved: 19<br/>Against: 0<br/>Abstentions: 0</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Standard Review Protocols Involving Recombinant DNA | 22-086-A04 | In Vitro Culture of Human iPSC-derived Cardiac Myocytes and Characterizati                                                                                                          | Kit Parker  | Harvard School of Engineering and Applied Sciences (SEAS) | <p>This amendment adds new viral vectors, human cell lines, and additional lab rooms. BL2 viral vectors will be used in the transduction of human and mammalian cell lines to detect calcium signals to characterize heart disease phenotypes and develop optogenetically modified cardiomyocytes to create light-sensing muscular films. This falls under Sections III-D, III-E, and III-F of the NIH Guidelines and will be conducted</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |

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|                                                     |            | on of Mouse and Rat Cardiac Myocytes Heterotypic for Connexin 43 (5 Year Renew, Protocol 17-165)             |                  |                                            | <p>under BL1, BL1-N, and BL2 per COMS policies and institutional biosafety manuals.</p> <p>The committee had no other comments or questions about this protocol. A motion was made to approve the protocol. The committee voted.</p> <p>Approved: 19<br/>Against: 0<br/>Abstentions: 0</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Standard Review Protocols Involving Recombinant DNA | 22-145-A08 | Mechanisms of Gene Silencing                                                                                 | Danesh Moazed    | Harvard Medical School (HMS)               | <p>This amendment adds established human cell lines and plasmid vectors for ongoing in vitro protein expression studies. This work falls under Sections III-E and III-F of the NIH Guidelines and will be conducted at BL1 and BL2 per COMS policies and institutional biosafety manuals.</p> <p>The committee had no other comments or questions about this protocol. A motion was made to approve the protocol. The committee voted.</p> <p>Approved: 19<br/>Against: 0<br/>Abstentions: 0</p>                                                                                                              |
| Standard Review Protocols Involving Recombinant DNA | 24-121-A07 | Infection and Inflammation 2024-2029                                                                         | Ruaidhri Jackson | Harvard Medical School (HMS)               | <p>This amendment includes the addition of murine-derived AKP organoids used to administer into animals for cancer models. This falls under Sections III-D and III-F of the NIH Guidelines and will be conducted under BL1 and BL1-N per COMS policies and institutional biosafety manuals.</p> <p>The committee had no other comments or questions about this protocol. A motion was made to approve the protocol. The committee voted.</p> <p>Approved: 19<br/>Against: 0<br/>Abstentions: 0</p>                                                                                                            |
| Standard Review Protocols Involving Recombinant DNA | 24-127-A01 | Bionic Leaf 24                                                                                               | Daniel Nocera    | Harvard Faculty of Arts and Sciences (FAS) | <p>This amendment adds a new protein — ribonuclease reductase — that is present in bacterial and eukaryotic genomes. The lab plans to clone this structure into non-pathogenic E. coli from a variety of these sources for protein expression. This falls under Sections III- E and III-F of the NIH Guidelines and will be conducted under BL1 per COMS policies and institutional biosafety manuals.</p> <p>The committee had no other comments or questions about this protocol. A motion was made to approve the protocol. The committee voted.</p> <p>Approved: 19<br/>Against: 0<br/>Abstentions: 0</p> |
| Standard Review Protocols Involving Recombinant DNA | 25-011-A01 | HSCI iPS core facility: Reprogramming, gene editing and differentiation of Human pluripotent stem cells 2025 | Laurence Daheron | Harvard Faculty of Arts and Sciences (FAS) | <p>The amendment adds (1) a new lipid nanoparticle device to deliver reprogramming factor mRNAs to somatic cells to generate new iPS cell lines that are transgene-free and (2) a new immortalized human cell line for gene editing, as well as expanding the types of differentiated cells they will generate from iPS cells. This falls under Section III-E of the NIH Guidelines and will be conducted under BL1 and BL2 per COMS policies and institutional biosafety manuals.</p>                                                                                                                        |

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|                                                     |            |                                                                                                                |                    |                                                  | <p>The committee had no other comments or questions about this protocol. A motion was made to approve the protocol. The committee voted.</p> <p>Approved: 19<br/>Against: 0<br/>Abstentions: 0</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Standard Review Protocols Involving Recombinant DNA | 25-115-A01 | Molecular Basis of Behavior                                                                                    | Stephen Liberles   | Harvard Medical School (HMS)                     | <p>This amendment introduces HEK293T cells and a replication-incompetent, third-generation lentiviral system to ongoing work. These tools will be used to create stable cell models for investigating recombinant protein-mediated signaling pathways. Engineered vectors will also be administered to mice. This work falls under sections III-D and III-E of the NIH Guidelines and will be conducted under BL2 and BL2-N per COMS policies and institutional biosafety manuals.</p> <p>The committee had no other comments or questions about this protocol. A motion was made to approve the protocol. The committee voted.</p> <p>Approved: 19<br/>Against: 0<br/>Abstentions: 0</p>                                                                                                                    |
| Standard Review Protocols Involving Recombinant DNA | 25-133-A02 | Studies of the Intestinal Microbiota in Colitis, Colitis-Associated Colorectal, and Sporadic Colorectal Cancer | Wendy Garrett      | Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health (HSPH) | <p>This amendment adds wild-type and gene knockout strains of <i>Staphylococcus epidermidis</i> to investigate the role of riboflavin biosynthesis genes in host-microbe interactions. They are also adding two mutant <i>fusobacterium nucleatum/animalis</i> strains and standard plasmid vectors to ongoing studies. This work falls under sections III-D, III-E, and III-F of the NIH Guidelines and will be conducted under BL1, BL1-N, BL2, and BL2-N per COMS policies and institutional biosafety manuals.</p> <p>The committee had no other comments or questions about this protocol. A motion was made to approve the protocol. The committee voted.</p> <p>Approved: 19<br/>Against: 0<br/>Abstentions: 0</p>                                                                                    |
| Standard Review Protocols Involving Recombinant DNA | 26-003     | Identification of Modulators of Stem Cell Function_2026                                                        | Lee Rubin          | Harvard Faculty of Arts and Sciences (FAS)       | <p>This is a 5-year rewrite. The lab studies neurodegenerative diseases using image-based, high-throughput assays with human and murine stem cells and cellular subtypes. They use adeno, lenti, and adeno-associated viral vectors to modify these cells with reporter genes or genes relevant to the disease mechanisms under study. They also use permissible amounts of the select agent tetrodotoxin. This work falls under sections III-D, III-E, and III-F of the NIH Guidelines and will be conducted under BL1, BL1-N, BL2, and BL2-N per COMS policies and institutional biosafety manuals.</p> <p>The committee had no other comments or questions about this protocol. A motion was made to approve the protocol. The committee voted.</p> <p>Approved: 19<br/>Against: 0<br/>Abstentions: 0</p> |
| Standard Review Protocols Involving                 | 26-009     | Generation of Transgenic Zebrafish 2026                                                                        | Sean Tsung-Megason | Harvard Medical School (HMS)                     | <p>This is a 5 year rewrite. The lab generates and studies transgenic zebrafish to understand development from an egg into an adult animal. The lab works with transgenic zebrafish, murine cells, non-pathogenic <i>Escherichia coli</i>, and plasmids.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

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| Recombinant DNA                                     |        |                                                     |                |                              | <p>This work falls under Sections III-D and III-F of the NIH Guidelines and will be conducted at BL1 and BL1N per COMS policies and institutional biosafety manuals.</p> <p>The committee had no other comments or questions about this protocol. A motion was made to approve the protocol. The committee voted.</p> <p>Approved: 19<br/>Against: 0<br/>Abstentions: 0</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Standard Review Protocols Involving Recombinant DNA | 26-012 | Mechanisms of host-microbiome interactions          | Marco Jost     | Harvard Medical School (HMS) | <p>This is a 5-year rewrite to study how microbial signals influence human physiology and contribute to metabolic and inflammatory disorders using CRISPR screens and targeted genetics. The lab employs both in vitro and in vivo approaches in mice and utilizes a variety of commensal bacterial species as well as non-pathogenic E. coli. Human cell lines are engineered via lentiviral transduction. The work falls under Sections III-D, III-E, and III-F of the NIH Guidelines and will be conducted under BL1, BL1-N, BL2 and BL2-N per COMS policies and institutional biosafety manuals. BL2-N per COMS policies and institutional biosafety manuals.</p> <p>The committee had no other comments or questions about this protocol. A motion was made to approve the protocol. The committee voted.</p> <p>Approved: 19<br/>Against: 0<br/>Abstentions: 0</p>     |
| Standard Review Protocols Involving Recombinant DNA | 26-013 | RNA Interference as a Weapon Against Bioterrorism   | Judy Lieberman | Harvard Medical School (HMS) | <p>This is a 5-year rewrite. The lab studies viral infection, cancer, and auto-inflammatory disease models with the goal of designing better therapeutics. They work with human blood and primary cell lines, mammalian and human cancer cell lines, non-pathogenic Escherichia coli, Herpes simplex virus, and lentiviral vectors targeting genes involved in cancer immunity. Some organisms may require occupational health consultation. This work falls under Sections III-D, III-E, and III-F of the NIH Guidelines and will be conducted at BL1, BL1N, BL2, BL2N, and BL2 with additional stipulations per COMS protocols and institutional biosafety manuals.</p> <p>The committee had no other comments or questions about this protocol. A motion was made to approve the protocol. The committee voted.</p> <p>Approved: 19<br/>Against: 0<br/>Abstentions: 0</p> |
| Standard Review Protocols Involving Recombinant DNA | 26-019 | Calcium Control of Synaptic Transmission in the CNS | Wade Regehr    | Harvard Medical School (HMS) | <p>This is a 5-year rewrite. The lab studies the function of the cerebellum. They handle adeno-associated viral vectors containing fluorescent protein and signal cascade genes, transgenic mice, and exempt quantities of select agent toxins. This work falls under Sections III-D, III-E, and III-F of the NIH Guidelines and will be conducted at BL1, BL1N, and BL2 per COMS policies and institutional biosafety manuals.</p> <p>The committee had no other comments or questions about this protocol. A motion was made to approve the protocol. The committee voted.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |

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|                                                     |        |                                                                          |                    |                                            | <p>Approved: 19<br/>Against: 0<br/>Abstentions: 0</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Standard Review Protocols Involving Recombinant DNA | 26-020 | Development of a Gene-Transfer-Resistant and Biocontained Bacterial Host | Akos Nyerges       | Harvard Medical School (HMS)               | <p>This is a protocol for a new PI. This project will study genetically recoded non-pathogenic E. coli, in which parts of the genetic code are reassigned to incorporate a synthetic amino acid not found in nature. The goal is to create bacteria that are resistant to bacteriophage infection and genetically isolated from natural organisms while also requiring the synthetic amino acid for survival. The engineered strains will then be tested in lab conditions by infection with common laboratory coliphages, inoculation in germ-free mice and simulated environmental samples to evaluate phage resistance gene transfer barriers and environmental stability. Saccharomyces cerevisiae will be also used for standard cloning. This work falls under the NIH Guidelines Sections III-F and III-D and can be conducted at BL1 and BL1-N practices per COMS protocols and institutional biosafety manuals.</p> <p>The committee had no other comments or questions about this protocol. A motion was made to approve the protocol. The committee voted.</p> <p>Approved: 19<br/>Against: 0<br/>Abstentions: 0</p> |
| Standard Review Protocols Involving Recombinant DNA | 26-021 | AAV brain injection into transgenic mice                                 | John Flanagan      | Harvard Medical School (HMS)               | <p>This is a 5-year rewrite. The overall goal of this project is to understand how the neuronal protein tau aggregates and how this process drives neurodegeneration using a transgenic mouse model. Researchers will use AAV injections to induce tau pathology, followed by histological analysis of fixed brain tissue. The work falls under Sections III-D and III-E of the NIH Guidelines and will be conducted under BL1-N, BL2, and BL2-N (72hrs) per COMS policies and institutional biosafety manuals.</p> <p>The committee had no other comments or questions about this protocol. A motion was made to approve the protocol. The committee voted.</p> <p>Approved: 19<br/>Against: 0<br/>Abstentions: 0</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Standard Review Protocols Involving Recombinant DNA | 26-024 | Harvard Center for Biological Imaging 2026                               | Douglas Richardson | Harvard Faculty of Arts and Sciences (FAS) | <p>This is a 5-year rewrite for the Harvard Center for Biological Imaging (HCBI). The HCBI core facility takes in samples from Harvard PIs and external lab customers. All new customers fill out a questionnaire describing their samples. Mammalian cell lines — both genetically modified and not, small animal tissue and embryos, bacteria and fungus are imaged in the core. The work falls under Sections III-D, III-E, and III-F of the NIH Guidelines and will be conducted under BL1 and BL2 per COMS policies and institutional biosafety manuals.</p> <p>The committee had no other comments or questions about this protocol. A motion was made to approve the protocol. The committee voted.</p> <p>Approved: 19<br/>Against: 0<br/>Abstentions: 0</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |

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| Standard Review Protocols Involving Recombinant DNA     | 26-025     | Active Learning Labs, Bioengineering Teaching Labs          | Anas Chalah               | Harvard School of Engineering and Applied Sciences (SEAS) | <p>This is a 5-year rewrite for the Active Learning Labs, Bioengineering Teaching Lab. The lab is designed to support undergraduate and graduate level courses as well as independent student projects at the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences. The lab uses human cell lines, Charles River water samples as well as various organisms at both BL1 and BL2. Recombinant work includes the use of non-pathogenic E. coli for cell transfection exercises, Bacillus subtilis expressing GFP for fluorescence live imaging, and cloning bacteriocins from Lactobacillus casei into Lactobacillus plantarum. Some agents will require more stringent disinfection. This falls under Sections III-E and III-F of the NIH Guidelines and will be conducted under BL1 and BL2 per COMS policies and institutional biosafety manuals.</p> <p>The committee had no other comments or questions about this protocol. A motion was made to approve the protocol. The committee voted.</p> <p>Approved: 19<br/>Against: 0<br/>Abstentions: 0</p> |
| Standard Review Protocols Involving Recombinant DNA     | 26-027     | Molecular Mechanisms of Germ Cell Formation and Development | Cassandra Extavour        | Harvard Faculty of Arts and Sciences (FAS)                | <p>This is a 5-year rewrite. The laboratory studies embryonic development using insects and other arthropod models. Standard plasmid constructs are engineered to generate transgenic insects expressing nonpathogenic, nontoxic transgenes in order to investigate early embryonic development and the function of reproductive systems. The work falls under Sections III-D and III-F of the NIH Guidelines and will be conducted at BL-1 and ACL-1 containment following COMS policies and institutional biosafety manuals.</p> <p>The committee had no other comments or questions about this protocol. A motion was made to approve the protocol. The committee voted.</p> <p>Approved: 19<br/>Against: 0<br/>Abstentions: 0</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Standard Review Protocols Not Involving Recombinant DNA | 21-115-A21 | Mammalian aging and mitochondrial stress responses          | Marcia Haigis             | Harvard Medical School (HMS)                              | <p>This amendment adds wild-type strains of Lymphocytic choriomeningitis virus, hamster cell lines, and human cell lines to study immune cell activation and anti-tumor immunity in mouse models. No genetic modification of the virus is proposed. Handling LCMV requires that a consultation with occupational health be offered. This work falls does not fall under the NIH Guidelines and will be conducted under BL2, BL2-N, and BL2 with additional stipulations, per COMS policies and institutional biosafety manuals.</p> <p>The committee had no other comments or questions about this protocol. A motion was made to approve the protocol. The committee voted.</p> <p>Approved: 19<br/>Against: 0<br/>Abstentions: 0</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Standard Review Protocols Not                           | 23-051-A17 | Undercoverin g the antigenic landscape of                   | Kizzmekia Corbett-Helaire | Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public                        | <p>This amendment adds new sources and procedures with common cold human betacoronaviruses. Previously approved for in vitro infection studies, these strains will now be used for mouse experiments. No genetic modification is proposed.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |



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| Involving Recombinant DNA                               |            | endemic coronaviruses                                                                         |              | Health (HSPH)                              | <p>This work does not fall under the NIH Guidelines and will be conducted under BL2 and BL2-N per COMS policies and institutional biosafety manuals.</p> <p>The committee had no other comments or questions about this protocol. A motion was made to approve the protocol. The committee voted.</p> <p>Approved: 19<br/>Against: 0<br/>Abstentions: 0</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Standard Review Protocols Not Involving Recombinant DNA | 23-107-A03 | Generation and Characterization of Zebrafish Models for Autism and other social behavior 2023 | Mark Fishman | Harvard Faculty of Arts and Sciences (FAS) | <p>The lab studies neural connections between heart and brain in zebrafish. This amendment seeks to add exempt amounts of tetrodotoxin for use in these animals to the protocol. This does not fall under the NIH Guidelines and will be conducted under BL2 and BL2-N per COMS policies and institutional biosafety manuals.</p> <p>The committee discussed the tetrodotoxin stock solution safety. The stock solution and working dilutions are much lower than the non-regulated, permissible toxin limits of the FSAP and will be controlled and locked in the lab.</p> <p>The committee had no other comments or questions about this protocol. A motion was made to approve the protocol. The committee voted.</p> <p>Approved: 19<br/>Against: 0<br/>Abstentions: 0</p> |

### Personnel Training

The PI and lab staff are required to be trained in accordance with the COMS Training Policy. Current PI training was verified by the Institutional Biosafety Officer for all protocols discussed at today's meeting, and PIs are responsible for ensuring lab and agent-specific training for their staff.

### Laboratory Inspection

The Institutional Biosafety Officer confirmed compliance with the COMS inspection policy for all protocols discussed at today's meeting. Facilities are considered appropriate for the proposed work and proposed containment levels. No significant findings/noncompliance were noted to the committee. The laboratories are working on any necessary corrective actions.

### New Policies and Procedures

The following two revised policies were reviewed and voted by the committee members.

1. COMS Incident Reporting Policy
2. COMS Training Policy

The committee had no other comments or questions about these two revised policies. A motion was made to approve the protocol. The committee voted.

Approved: 19  
Against: 0  
Abstentions: 0

### Reported Incidents

No incidents were presented at this meeting.

### Old Business

No old business were presented at this meeting.

## **New Business**

Training Articles of Interest: The committee was provided with five articles for the purposes of COMS member training.

1. Pick your poison: The enduring threat of biological toxins
2. Cotton, Klobuchar Introduce Bill to Establish Federal Biotech Security Framework
3. Dr. Gerald Parker on X
4. Biosafety Modernization Initiative
5. Dengue Suppression by Male Wolbachia-Infected Mosquitoes

## **Public Meeting**

There were no public comments.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 AM.