Georgia Institute of Technology
Institutional Biosafety Committee
Meeting Minutes
March 5, 2026
10:00 AM

Voting Members Present:
K-BIOL (Interim Chair)
T-ORIA
D-NAM
S-BME
S-BIOL
K-NAM

Voting Members Absent:
A-ME (Chair)
M-ORIA
K-EHS

Non-voting Attendees:
KS-ORIA
KA-ORIA
P-ORIA
M-LC

The full Committee roster is posted publicly on the Georgia Tech website. All requests from the public to join a Georgia Tech IBC meeting are considered upon request. No such requests were received for this meeting.

1. **A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 10:00 am.**

2. **Approval of February 5, 2026, Minutes**
The February IBC minutes were sent to committee review. No modifications were requested.
Motion: Approve the minutes as written.
Approve: Five **Disapprove: none** **Abstain: none**

3. **Registrations/Amendments for Discussion at Today's Meeting**

KUBANEK-R100051 (renewal)
Title: Kubanek lab IBC
Funding: Emory, NSF
Category: Non-Exempt, BSL-2, Section III-E, III-F-1
Discussion Leaders: S-BIOL, T-ORIA

The Committee and BSO reviewed this renewal submission and evaluated the risk assessment and proposed biocontainment plan. The goal of the proposed work is the discovery and development of small-molecule drugs, bioremediation agents, and ecological chemical cues from marine microbes and diverse coral reef organisms collected from the Florida Keys, Gulf of Mexico, Fiji and the Solomon Islands. The proposed use of prokaryotic ribosomal DNA, eukaryotic ribosomal DNA, proteins and amino acid tags indicates that this work should be classified as Non-Exempt, BSL-2, Section III-E, III-F-1. The Committee found that the facilities,

procedures, practices, training, and expertise of personnel described on this protocol are appropriate for the proposed work. The PI has identified the potential risks involved with this research and has included plans to mitigate such risks that are suitable for the research described. The Committee discussed the protocol and found the protocol lacked some details related to the protocol description. Additionally, some materials and organisms were listed that were not specifically mentioned in the protocol narrative. The Committee requested clarification on whether this language reflects general safety descriptions or whether these materials and organisms will be used.

Motion: Return renewal protocol to address clarifying questions, then be returned to DMR for final review and approval.

Approve: Five **Disapprove: none** **Abstain: none**

KONSTANTINIDIS-R100313
Title: Protocol for expression of proteins from crude oil degrading environmental bacteria in E. coli BL21
Funding: Georgia Research Alliance
Category: Non-Exempt, BSL-1, Section III-E
Discussion Leaders: S-BME, K-NAM

The Committee and BSO reviewed this protocol submission and evaluated the risk assessment and proposed biocontainment plan. The goal of the proposed work is to test the functionality of recovered proteins based on culture-independent metagenomics sequence data, and to clone them into E. coli BL21 to access activity and specificity. The proposed use of a homolog composed of known bioemulsifiers indicates that this work should be classified as Non-Exempt, BSL-1, Section III-E. The Committee found that the facilities, procedures, practices, training, and expertise of personnel described in this protocol are appropriate for the proposed work. The PI has identified the potential risks involved with this research and has included plans to mitigate such risks that are suitable for the research described. The Committee discussed the protocol and had no concerns.

Motion: Approve the protocol as written.

Approve: Five **Disapprove: none** **Abstain: none**

GARG-R100169 (renewal)
Title: Understanding the chemical response of microorganisms to antibiotic exposure
Funding: NIH, Discretionary
Category: Non-Exempt, BSL-2, Section III-D-2-a
Discussion Leaders: K-BIOL, D-NAM

The Committee and BSO reviewed this renewal submission and evaluated the risk assessment and proposed biocontainment plan. The goal of the proposed work is to study how antibiotic exposure regulates the production of natural products and affects the spatial biogeography of bacterial communities. The proposed use of gene fragments and marker proteins indicates that this work should be classified as Non-Exempt, BSL-2, Section III-D-2-a. The Committee found that the facilities, procedures, practices, training, and expertise of personnel described on this protocol are appropriate for the proposed work. The PI has identified the potential risks involved with this research and has included plans to mitigate such risks that are suitable for the research described. The Committee discussed the protocol and reiterated the importance of laboratory training as it promotes safety in research.

Motion: Approve the protocol pending the completion of safety training by the PI.

Approve: Five **Disapprove: none** **Abstain: none**

4. **Items not requiring committee discussion or review**

The Committee has been provided with a list of protocols, amendments, and renewals to IBC registrations which were approved at or since the last Biosafety Committee meeting (including items

exempt from the *NIH Guidelines*). The Committee was also provided with a list of registrations which were withdrawn, expired, or closed since the last Biosafety Committee meeting.

5. **Other business**

None

Next meeting April 2, 2026