

The Buck Institute for Research on Aging



Institutional Biosafety Committee

Wednesday May 6, 2026

1:00-3:00pm

Zoom

Meeting Minutes

Voting Members Present: Chris Endicott, PhD (Chair, BSO, Chemistry)
Birgit Schilling, PhD (Chemistry)
Kai Zhou, PhD (Molecular and Cell Biology)
Myriam Chuquin (Grants Director)
Gary Scott, PhD (Molecular Biology)
Cary McDonald (Animal Care & Use Program Director)
Meredith Protas, PhD (Genetics, Non-Affiliated Member)

Voting Members Absent: Marilyn Dobbas (RN-retired, Non-Affiliated Member)

Other Attendees: None

1. Call to Order
 - a. A quorum was confirmed and the meeting came to order at 1:08pm.
2. Review of Minutes from 2/11/26 IBC Meeting
 - a. Prior meeting minutes were reviewed and unanimously approved via email on 2/20/26. These minutes were publicly posted.
 - b. No additional edits were brought forward at this meeting.
3. Announcements and Review of Items from Previous IBC Meeting
 - a. Webb lab BUA amendment to test six new toxins compounds in their IACUC protocol was reviewed and approved.
 - b. Ellerby lab BUA amendment to update new lab personnel was administratively approved.
 - c. The IBC roster, 2026 meeting dates, and revised SOPs were updated on the internal Buck Institute EH&S website. The list of BUAs for each lab will be updated with a new format.
 - d. The website URL for where the IBC meeting minutes are publically posted was updated in the NIH RMS system.
 - e. Discussed adding another non-affiliated member to the committee to help ensure a quorum at meetings. This was unanimously agreed upon, and IBC members will reach out to prospective candidates.

4. Updates on Status of Prior Reviewed BUA Applications

- a. BUA#: IBC-00000005
Title: Aging and Age Related Diseases
PI: Simon Melov
Type: 3-year Renewal
Reviewers: Full Committee
NIH Guideline Sections: III-E-3, III-D-4, App C-III, App C-VII
Status: Approved, 3/12/2026

This 3-year BUA renewal was first reviewed at the 2/11/2026 IBC meeting. Revisions for final approval required adding a statement on how human tissue samples are deidentified, including a description of their honeybee project, further explanation of their methodology and how certain toxins are used, and various minor corrections. The Chair worked with the Melov lab to complete these revisions, and this BUA was approved for BSL2 research.

- b. BUA#: IBC-00000039
Title: Quantitative Proteomics to Develop Robust Senescence-Related Biomarkers for Aging
PI: Birgit Schilling
Type: 3-year Renewal
Reviewers: Full Committee
NIH Guideline Sections: not applicable
Status: Approved, 3/5/2026

This 3-year BUA renewal was first reviewed at the 2/11/2026 IBC meeting. After correcting a couple of minor typos, this BUA renewal was fully approved for BSL1 research.

5. Review of new BUA Amendments

- a. BUA#: IBC-00000017
Title: Mechanism of Organelle Dysfunction during Aging
PI: Chuankai Zhou
Type: Amendment
Reviewers: Full Committee
NIH Guideline Sections: III-E-3, III-D-4, App C-III, App C-VII
Status: Unanimous vote to approve with administrative changes

This BUA amendment was first reviewed at this meeting, and Dr. Zhou recused himself during the discussion. The purpose of this amendment was to include a new researcher and their work with a lentivirus vector, and this portion of the amendment was approved for BSL2 research. During the review, several other aspects of their BUA were found to need revision including:

- i. Removal of an expired IACUC protocol
- ii. Update of an internal funding source
- iii. Update to the list of toxins being used
- iv. Rooms being used
- v. Various minor corrections

The Chair will work with the Zhou lab to make these changes before final approval.

6. Review of BUA Renewal Applications

a. BUA#: IBC-00000004

Title: Chronic Inflammation and Non-Communicable Disease

PI: David Furman

Type: 3-year Renewal

Reviewers: Full Committee

NIH Guideline Sections: not applicable

Status: Unanimous vote to place into DMR (Reviewers: Chris Endicott and Cary McDonald)

Project description: The Furman lab specializes in immune aging and AI/ML analysis. Projects range from investigating intrinsic capacity and multi-omic integration to drug repurposing. They also study human PBMCs, immune, cardiac, and neural organoid models for aging and inflammation. The Furman Lab runs the Bioinformatics Core which strictly performs *in silico* work on sponsored research collaborations/agreements.

This 3-year BUA renewal was reviewed for the first time at this meeting. The IBC determined that there were several aspects of this application that still need attention before it can be approved:

1. Project Overview needs some general revision to improve clarity and to specify whether each research project being performed is computational or has a wet bench component.
2. Toxins that are not being used should either be removed from the lab and BUA or a description needs to be included for how they will be used in the future.
3. Several personnel updates regarding titles and experience.

The designated reviewers will work with the Furman lab to make these changes before final approval.

7. Review of New BUA Applications

a. BUA#: IBC-00000032

Title: Hazards Associated with Reproductive Biology Research

PI: Bikiem Soygur

Type: New Application

Reviewers: Full Committee

NIH Guideline Sections: III-D-1, III-D-4, III-E-1

Status: Unanimous vote to approve

Project Description: The Reproductive Biology Hub (RBH) enables, supports, and promotes cross-disciplinary collaborations between the fields of reproductive science and aging to advance our understanding of the mechanisms underlying reproductive aging. The RBH collaborates with interested researchers to provide training for reproductive biology techniques and uses mouse models to assess reproductive potential, cyclicity, and fertility in female mice through various techniques. The RBH also perform experiments to generate a 3D spatial map of the ovary in order to study communication among distinct ovarian structures within the broader ovarian microenvironment.

This new BUA application was reviewed for the first time at the 2/11/2026 IBC meeting and was initially denied approval. The Chair worked with the RBH to make the requested corrections which included:

1. Splitting parts of the application to differentiate research being performed by the core for collaborators and individual research taking place within the RBH.
2. Updating funding information.
3. Reducing ABSL level from 2 to 1 in all sections pertaining to research done by the RBH.
4. Adding Dr. Duncan to the personnel list and completing all required personnel information.
5. Providing experimental usage description for picric acid.
6. Revising methodology to address each toxin usage and include additional experimental details.

Upon second review, these concerns were found to be sufficiently addressed, and the IBC unanimously voted to approve this protocol.

- b. BUA#: IBC-00000040
Title: Buck Institute Flow Cytometry and Immunophenotyping Core
PI: Herb Kasler
Type: New Application
Reviewers: Full Committee
NIH Guideline Sections: Not Applicable
Status: Unanimous vote to place into DMR (Reviewers: Chris Endicott and Meredith Protas)

Project Description: The Buck Institute Flow Cytometry and Immunophenotyping Core provides instrumentation and a variety of services for the analysis and isolation of cultured cells and tissues by flow cytometry. As such, they currently provide these services to most Buck investigators, several Buck tenant companies, and a few extramural investigators, comprising a large number of different scientific projects and specific aims. For the Buck and tenant company investigators, these projects and the agents involved are described in the BUA documents of the respective labs. For the extramural collaborators, our participation in their projects consists exclusively of the preparation and flow cytometric analysis of human blood cells and various mouse tissues that have not been treated with any toxins or potentially infectious agents.

This new BUA application was reviewed for the first time at this meeting. The IBC found a few aspects that need to be updated before final approval which include:

1. The Flow Core chemical inventory is combined with the Verdin lab inventory, but the IBC requests that the Flow Core submits their own specific inventory.
2. Dr. Verdin needs an update to his personnel role.
3. The methodology should include more description of typical daily activities in the Flow Core.

The designated reviewers will work with the Flow Core to make these changes before final approval.

8. New Items

- a. A new lab (PI: Walter) has recently joined the Buck Institute. The Chair will work with them to establish their BUA.

9. Other Items

- a. The IBC discussed whether to start using Designated Member Review (DMR) to assist with the BUA approval process. There was unanimous agreement on this topic, and two protocols reviewed at this meeting were placed into DMR.
- b. The Verdin lab BUA 3-year renewal was not submitted in time for review at this meeting. It will be completed and submitted for review as soon as possible.
- c. The IBC agreed to add an additional meeting this summer to review the Walter and Verdin lab BUAs (date TBD). The IBC discussed whether we should meet more often than quarterly, but a decision was not made at this meeting.
- d. The Chair will work on a new policy for the IBC that addresses expectations and requirements for BUA submissions and approval.

10. Meeting Adjourned

- a. The meeting adjourned at 2:40pm.

2026 IBC meeting dates: February 11, May 6, August 26, November 11