

The Buck Institute for Research on Aging



Institutional Biosafety Committee

Wednesday June 24th, 2026

2:00-4:00pm

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 2:05pm.
2. Review of Minutes from 5/6/26 IBC Meeting
 - a. Prior meeting minutes were reviewed and unanimously approved via email on 5/15/26. 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 use a new mHypoE N-39 cell line was reviewed and approved.
 - b. Zhou lab BUA amendment to include new lentivirus research and make various other updates to their BUA was reviewed and approved.
4. Updates on Status of Prior Reviewed BUA Applications
 - a. BUA#: IBC-00000032
Title: Hazards Associated with Reproductive Biology Research
PI: Bikem Soygur
Type: New Application
Reviewers: Full Committee
NIH Guideline Sections: III-D-1, III-D-4, III-E-1
Status: Approved, 6/16/2026

This new BUA application was first reviewed at the 2/11/2026 IBC meeting. Revisions for final approval included differentiating research being performed by the faculty from the core services, updating funding information, reducing ABSLs from 2 to 1, updating methodology to include additional experimental details, and various other minor edits. These revisions were completed, and this BUA was approved BSL1 research.

- 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: Approved, 6/24/2026

This new BUA application was first reviewed at the 5/6/2026 IBC meeting. Revisions for final approval included providing their specific chemical inventory, adding experimental details regarding daily activities in the methodology, and a minor personnel update. These revisions were completed and the BUA was approved for BSL2 research.

- c. 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: Still in DMR pending final approval

This BUA renewal was first reviewed at the 5/6/2026 IBC meeting. It has not been fully revised yet, which included clarifying parts of the project overview, updating the usage of certain toxins, and updating some personnel information. The designated member reviewers have not approved this renewal at this time.

5. Review of new BUA Amendments

- a. None

6. Review of BUA Renewal Applications

- a. BUA#: IBC-00000003
Title: Metabolic and Epigenetic Regulation of Immune Aging and Inflammation Using Recombinant DNA and Viral Vector Models
PI: Eric Verdin
Type: 3-year Renewal
Reviewers: Full Committee
NIH Guideline Sections: III-D-1, III-D-4, App C-VII
Status: Unanimous vote to approve with administrative updates

Project description: The Verdin laboratory investigates the role of post-translational protein modifications, including acetylation and acylation, in regulating metabolism, immune function, aging, and inflammation. A central focus of this work is the study of NAD⁺ dependent enzymes, including sirtuins and CD38, and their roles in cellular metabolism, mitochondrial function, immune cell activation, and age-associated functional decline. They utilize a combination of in vitro and in vivo experimental systems, including mammalian cell culture, immortalized cell lines, primary human and mouse cells, and genetically modified mouse models. Recombinant DNA techniques are used to manipulate gene expression in cells and animals, including transient transfection and transduction with replication-deficient viral vectors.

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 can be administratively addressed before final approval:

1. The BUA is missing the Hevolution funding source information, and other listed funding needs some minor corrections to their grant numbers.
2. The collaborating universities that provide transgenic mice should be specifically mentioned.
3. Under NIH Guidelines, the box for C-VII should be checked since transgenic mice are purchased and transferred. The boxes for E3 and C-VIII should also be checked if there is any research involving only BL1 transgenic rodents.
4. Confirm whether Doxorubicin and Ethidium Bromide are still currently being used.

5. Add language to the Additional Details in the Toxins section stating that SOPs #40 and 42 are being following regarding toxin use in the vivarium.

7. Review of New BUA Applications

a. BUA#: IBC-00000041

Title: Decoding the Stress Responses that Safeguard Cell Health and Harnessing them to Combat Age-Related Disease

PI: Peter Walter

Type: New Application

Reviewers: Full Committee

NIH Guideline Sections: III-E-3, III-F-1, III-F-2, III-F-3

Status: Unanimous vote to place into DMR (Chris Endicott and Kai Zhou)

Project description: The Walter Lab investigates how cells detect and respond to stress, with particular focus on the fundamental surveillance systems represented by the signaling networks of the Unfolded Protein Response (UPR) and the Integrated Stress Response (ISR). The lab explores the machinery and molecular mechanisms that control protein synthesis, folding, and targeting, and explores how organelles communicate to regulate their abundance and health. Their research approaches range from atomic resolution structural work and biochemical reconstitution to genetics in the intact organism. They utilize recombinant DNA (rDNA) and synthetic nucleic acid technologies to manipulate cellular pathways within well-characterized, low-risk model systems, such as baker's yeast, established cell lines, and mice.

This new BUA application was reviewed for the first time at this meeting. The IBC determined that there were several aspects of this application that need to be addressed before final approval:

1. There were several mentions that humans are being exposed to experimental hazards, but this is likely due to confusing wording in the Cayuse program. The Chair will work with the Walter lab to clarify this language.
2. Since the Walter lab does not have an approved IACUC protocol yet, the IBC recommends to remove all references to animal research at this time. This research can be added again later as an amendment once their animal research has been more clearly defined.
3. Missing funding sources.
4. Some NIH Guideline selections need to be modified, and the Chair will work with the Walter lab to make these changes.
5. TRIzol needs to be added to the toxins list, and their chemical inventory needs to be updated to a new format that includes storage locations.
6. In the Personnel section, Diego needs a minor title update in his experience, and there should be at least one listed contact phone number.
7. The Work Practices section has some extra options selected that can be removed.

8. New Items

- a. The Webb lab 3-year BUA renewal will be reviewed at the next IBC meeting.

9. Other Items

- a. The IBC engaged in a discussion on the importance for new faculty to focus on completing their BUA while setting up their laboratory and before commencing any research. If IACUC protocols are also required, these must be completed before the BUA can be approved or submitted later as an amendment. The Chair will make a recommendation to the Chief Operating Officer to include language regarding onboarding and lab closure requirements in the faculty handbook.

10. Meeting Adjourned

- a. The meeting adjourned at 3:32pm.