

The Buck Institute for Research on Aging



Institutional Biosafety Committee

Wednesday September 2nd, 2026

2:00-3:00pm

Zoom

Meeting Minutes

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

Voting Members Absent: Myriam Chuquin (Grants Director), 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 2:02pm.
2. Review of Minutes from 6/24/26 IBC Meeting
 - a. Prior meeting minutes were reviewed and unanimously approved via email on 7/2/26. 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. The Chair and COO discussed the timing and sequence for new labs at the Buck to complete their compliance protocols. The COO fully supports the recommendations from the IBC, and the compliance process for onboarding the Walter lab has worked effectively.
4. Updates on Status of Prior Reviewed BUA 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: Approved, 8/11/2026

This 3-year BUA renewal was first reviewed at the 6/24/2026 IBC meeting. Revisions for final approval included updating funding information, listing collaborating universities that provide transgenic mice, checking boxes for C-VII and C-VIII, confirming whether Doxorubicin and Ethidium Bromide are still currently in use, and adding language to the Additional Details in the Toxins section stating that SOPs 40 and 42 are being following regarding toxin use in the vivarium. These revisions were completed, and this BUA was approved BSL2 research.

b. 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: Approved, 8/7/2026

This new BUA application was first reviewed at the 6/24/2026 IBC meeting. Revisions for final approval included clarifying that humans are not being exposed to experimental hazards, removing all references to animal research until their IACUC protocol has been approved (to be added later as an amendment), and updating funding sources, NIH guidelines, toxins, and chemical inventory. There were also some minor edits to the personnel information and Work Practices sections. These revisions were completed, and this BUA was approved 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: In DMR pending final approval

This BUA renewal was first reviewed at the 5/6/2026 IBC meeting. It was revised to clarify the project overview and update personnel information and the usage of certain toxins. The designated member reviewers are currently reviewing this BUA renewal.

5. Review of new BUA Amendments

a. None

6. Review of BUA Renewal Applications

a. BUA#: IBC-00000006

Title: Preservation of Cellular Homeostasis During Aging

PI: Ashley Webb

Type: 3-year Renewal

Reviewers: Full Committee

NIH Guideline Sections: III-D-1, III-D-4, III-E-1, III-E-3, III-F-2, III-F-6, App C-1, C-II, C-VII, C-VIII

Status: Unanimous vote to approve with administrative updates

Project description: The Webb lab investigates mechanisms of brain aging and neurodegeneration, with a particular focus on transcriptional and epigenetic mechanisms and pathways that support cellular homeostasis such as proteostasis and mitophagy. The lab uses a combination of primary cell culture, in vivo mouse work, human iPSC systems, and genomics approaches. The specific projects underway in the lab include determining the mechanisms underlying hypothalamic aging using fibroblasts reprogrammed to functional neurons, identifying the role of cellular homeostasis pathways in supporting healthy adult hippocampal neurogenesis and how it is altered in the context of Alzheimer's Disease, searching for the mechanisms that support healthy neurogenesis in the adult and aged brain, with a focus on mitochondrial health, cellular metabolism and the lysosome-autophagy system, identifying differences between healthy human aging and Alzheimer's Disease in the hypothalamus, and identifying the role that sex differences play in the hypothalamus, and its effect on aging mechanisms and their physiological outputs.

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. Provide further description regarding aim #5 in the project overview.
2. Correct funding numbers.
3. Describe how aerosols are prevented during RNA research.
4. Add several toxins and their related safety information.
5. Include the vivarium as one of the research locations and state that SOPs 40 and 42 are being followed.
6. Experience is missing for one research member.
7. Describe type of engineered sharps being used.
8. Update IACUC approval date.

7. Review of New BUA Applications

- a. None

8. New Items

- a. The chair informed the IBC that the NIH has released a draft of their new Policy for Research Involving Biohazards and the associated incident reporting and meeting minutes templates. The IBC discussed the summary of proposed changes.

9. Other Items

- a. The IBC identified some upcoming agenda topics.

10. Meeting Adjourned

- a. The meeting adjourned at 2:50pm.

2026 IBC meeting dates: February 11, May 6, June 24, September 2, November 11