



University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Biosafety Program

Biosafety Program Newsletter Fall 2022

In This Issue:

[New IBC members: Welcome!](#)

[Fall IBC meeting schedule](#)

[New to UWM? Check out the Biosafety Program orientation video](#)

[In the News: *B. pseudomallei* in U.S. environmental samples](#)

[Shipping & Transport webpage launched](#)

New IBC Members: Welcome!

This fall we are welcoming six new members to our [Institutional Biosafety Committee](#):

<i>Institutional Members</i>	Sonia Bardy , Associate Professor of Biological Sciences
	Shama Mirza , Associate Professor of Chemistry & Biochemistry
	Troy Skwor , Assistant Professor of Biomedical Sciences
<i>Community Members</i>	Andrew Kuzma , Ethics Fellow at Advocate Aurora Healthcare
	Todd Levine , Senior Lecturer & Field Station Director at Carroll University
<i>Ex-officio Nonvoting Members</i>	Melody Harries , Compliance Director, University Safety & Assurances

Please join us in welcoming our new committee members and thanking [all of our members](#) for their service to the UWM community!

Fall IBC Meeting Schedule

The Institutional Biosafety Committee will be returning to its regular meeting schedule on **second Fridays at 1-3pm** for the fall semester. The complete fall semester schedule is below and [posted online](#):

Meeting Date	Deadline to Submit
September 9, 2022	August 26, 2022
October 14, 2022	September 30, 2022
November 11, 2022	October 28, 2022
December 9, 2022	November 25, 2022

As a reminder, **all work with biohazardous materials and/or recombinant/synthetic nucleic acids needs to be [submitted in a biosafety protocol](#)** to the IBC. If you have questions about the submission process, feel free to reach out to the Biosafety Program at uwm-biosafety@uwm.edu

New to UWM? Check out the Biosafety Program Orientation Video

The Biosafety Program has a [new orientation video](#) posted to our website that provides a quick 10-minute overview of the biosafety program on our campus. It is strongly recommended for new faculty and staff with supervisory laboratory responsibilities to [view the video](#) and [get in touch with the BSO](#) to discuss the needs of your research or teaching laboratory. Be sure to share this information with any new colleagues in your department areas!

In the News: *B. pseudomallei* in U.S. environmental samples

Last month, the [CDC announced that they had isolated *Burkholderia pseudomallei*](#) from U.S. soil and water in the Gulf Coast region of Mississippi. This is the first time that this bacteria has been identified in U.S. environmental samples. *B. pseudomallei* is the causative agent of melioidosis, a rare and serious disease typically present in tropical environments, and is a [Select Agent regulated by the CDC and USDA](#).

This discovery is an important reminder that even environmental samples can harbor biohazardous agents. UWM researchers or instructors who work with environmental samples should always use standard BSL-1 precautions, and BSL-2 containment may be required if unknown isolates are being subcultured from these samples. [Contact the BSO](#) if you'd like to discuss your lab's risk assessment and procedures for environmental sample handling.

Shipping & Transport webpage launched

The UWM Biosafety Program recently launched a [Biological Materials Shipping & Transport webpage](#) with resources and information for safe transport of materials both on-campus and

off-campus. If you frequently share samples with colleagues, work in multiple buildings on campus, or collect sample materials off-campus, be sure to [check it out!](#)

The UWM Biosafety Program is always working to ensure your safety and the safety of our surrounding community. If you have any questions, concerns, or ideas to improve biosafety on our campus, please get in touch!

UWM Biosafety Program

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