

University of Maryland, College Park Campus

Institutional Biosafety Committee Meeting Minutes

Virtual (Zoom) – Wednesday, 11th February 2026

Meeting Start: 1:00 PM - Meeting Adjourned 2:06 PM, Location: Virtual (Zoom)

Per NIH Notice, NOT-OD-25-082 dated March 28, 2025, the Institutional Biosafety Committee has reviewed all applicable activities that the IBC must carry out on behalf of the institution and matters considered appropriate as described in Sections IV-B-2-b, II-A-3, and III of the current NIH Guidelines for Research Involving Recombinant or Synthetic Nucleic Acid Molecules.

Attendance

IBC Members in Attendance

1. Jeffrey DeStefano
2. Hongliang Yang
3. Luis Lugo
4. Amanda Perlman
5. Samar Tadros Yousef
6. Sean Riley
7. Myles Poulin
8. Tim Mangel
9. Alan Hew
10. Kendra McMillan
11. Brian Pierce
12. Christian Pick

13. Ruth Heffes
14. Sammy Almashat (alternate member)
15. Margaret Scull

Other Individuals in Attendance

1. Mary Dorman
2. Evan Rabinowitsch
3. Shanai Mushala
4. Courtney Carlsson
5. Holda Ramos

Updates

1. Minutes for review: January 2026 IBC Meeting
 - a. Meeting Minutes have been reviewed and approved.
2. ESSR Update
 - a. This week is lab safety week and there are on-going activities around campus ending with a celebration at the ESJ Building on Friday 2/13.
 - b. We are in the process of repairing building 344, the Environmental Service Facility.
 - c. ESSR is hiring a new employee for the workers' compensation manager position.
 - d. ESSR will resume regular meetings with UHC.
3. Biosafety Office Update
 - a. ESSR has been awarded a sustainability award that is planned for a GreenLabs Initiative geared towards lab recycling and sustainable practices.
 - b. The Biosafety Office addressed the issue from a BSL-1 lab that briefly worked with a human cell line without receiving proper approval.

c. Our team received unique ORA compliance check regarding a UMD graduate student working at UMB – this was deemed to be outside of UMCP purview as the research is solely conducted, registered, and approved through UMB.

4. IBC Update
5. Occupational Health Update
6. Campus Update
7. Community Update

a. On 2/21 at 10am, there is a Lunar Celebration at College Park City hall. The city will also be implementing stop sign cameras.

Projects Review

1. Projects Requiring 4-Year Review

a. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

This lab does not fall under the scope of the NIH Guidelines for Research with Recombinant or Synthetic Nucleic Acids. [REDACTED]

Primary Reviewer: Scull

Secondary Reviewer: McMillan

Motion: MRSA with return to Biosafety Office

Vote: For: 15 Against: 0 Abstained: 0

2. New Projects Requiring IBC Review

a. **Dickey Lab**

Project: PN706 'Characterization of bacteriophages'

This lab falls under the scope of the NIH Guidelines for Research with Recombinant or Synthetic Nucleic Acids section III-D-1, III-D-2, III-E, III-F-1, III-F-2, III-F-3, and III-F-8. This specific project falls outside of the scope of the NIH Guidelines. Research is conducted using BSL-2 facilities and practices. This laboratory uses *E. coli* K-12 host-vector systems for proteomic studies.

All members of this lab have received required training.

Primary Reviewer: Poulin

Secondary Reviewer: Pierce

Motion: MRSA with return to Biosafety Office

Vote: For: 15 Against: 0 Abstained: 0

3. Amendments Requiring IBC Review

a. [REDACTED]

This lab does not fall under the scope of the NIH Guidelines for Research with Recombinant or Synthetic Nucleic Acids.

[REDACTED]

Primary Reviewer: Riley

Secondary Reviewer: Pick

Motion: MRSA with return to Biosafety Office

Vote: For: 15 Against: 0 Abstained: 0

b. [REDACTED]

This lab does not fall under the scope of the NIH Guidelines for Research with Recombinant or Synthetic Nucleic Acid.

[REDACTED]

Primary Reviewer: Rodriguez-Leal

Secondary Reviewer: Heffes

Motion: MRSA with return to Biosafety Office

Vote: For: 15 Against: 0 Abstained: 0

Old Business

1. Registrations Modified to Secure Approval

A. **PN700, Ball Lab.** MRSA requirements have been fulfilled.

2. Administrative Approvals

A. [REDACTED]

Projects Acknowledged

This meeting of the IBC is open to the public pursuant to the *NIH Guidelines*, Section IV-B-2-a-(6). The meeting minutes are in compliance with NIH Guidelines and NIH Notice NOT-OD-25-082.

Next Meeting: March 11th, 2026 at 1:00pm – Zoom (Virtual)