



Miami University Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) Meeting Minutes

May 18, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Location: Zoom

Members Present:

- Dr. Joseph Carlin (Chair, Microbiology)
- Mr. Jeffrey Johnson (Environmental Health and Safety)
- Dr. Andrew Jones (Chemical, Paper, and Biomedical Engineering)
- Dr. Matthew Saxton (Biological Sciences)
- Dr. Carole Dabney-Smith (Plant Expert, Chemistry & Biochemistry)
- Dr. Tom Crist (Department of Biology)
- Mr. Paul Richmond (Unaffiliated Member)
- Dr. Rock Mancini (Chemistry & Biochemistry)

Members Absent:

- Ms. Carol Durrough (Unaffiliated Member)
- Ms. Jazzminn Hembree (Animal Expert, Laboratory Animal Resources)
- Dr. Richard Page (Associate Vice President of Research and Innovation, *ex officio*)

Staff Present:

- Ms. Amanda Stewart (Assistant Director of Lab Safety)

Guests Present:

- None

I. Call to Order

- a. 3:01 p.m.
- b. Quorum established. Six voting members present. Two voting members joined after the meeting minutes were approved.
- c. Conflict of Interest Statement: IBC members with a conflict of interest related to the review of a specific application may not be involved in the review or approval of the application if the IBC member expects to be engaged in research described in the application or has a direct financial interest.

II. Review of Previous Meeting Minutes

- a. Review of meeting minutes from March 16, 2026.
 - i. Comments: None
 - ii. Motion to approve.
 - iii. Vote: For: 6; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Absent: 4

III. Announcements

- a. Meeting invitations for June, July, and August will be sent to the IBC members this week.

IV. Reports of Non-Compliance or Incidents

- a. None reported.

V. Protocol Review

- a. Application Title: Miami0072_Elewa_2026_04_30
 - i. Principal Investigator: Dr. Ahmed Elewa
 - ii. Primary Reviewer Name: [IBC Member]
 - iii. Additional Reviewer(s) Name(s): N/A
 - iv. Project Overview:

The embryo received a parental endowment of macromolecules that initiate the earliest stages of development. This parental contribution also represents and communicates the parent's environmental conditions. Variability in offspring development can be traced, in part, to differences in these endowments and, in turn, the ancestral environmental conditions that have been communicated across prior generations. The overall goal of my research is to use the nematode *C. elegans* to systematically decode how parental experience is inherited non-genetically in a manner that affects offspring development, physiology, and behavior.
 - v. Agent Names:
 - 1. *Escherichia coli* (Strain: OP50)
 - vi. BSL: Biosafety Level 1
 - vii. Applicable NIH Guidelines: Section III-E
 - viii. Potential for Dual-Use: No
 - ix. Training Assigned:
 - 1. Basic Introduction to Biosafety
 - 2. Fundamentals of Working in Biological Safety Cabinet
 - x. Risk Assessment and Discussion:
 - 1. The IBC members discussed the biosafety containment level and determined, based on the materials utilized and the risk assessment, that Biosafety Level 1 was appropriate. Instances where Biosafety Level 2 is indicated in the application must be changed.
 - xi. Information to be communicated with PI:
 - 1. On the "Overview", "Infectious Agents/Microorganisms" pages, BSL-1 should be selected. This change should be made on all other pages that reference BSL-2.
 - 2. On the "Whole Animal Work" page, in the attached document listed *C. elegans* strains, one is listed as "contaminated." What does that mean?

3. On the “Options” page, there is no response for “Recombinant and Synthetic Nucleic Acid Molecules (e.g., bacterial/mammalian expression plasmids, replication incompetent viral vectors, chemically synthesized nucleic acid molecules).”
 4. On the “Options” page, the PI indicated “no” for the following question: “Whole Animal Work (e.g., breeding, creation, or purchase of transgenic animals and/or administration of biohazardous materials to animals.” This answer should be changed to “yes.”
 5. On the “Infectious Agents/Microorganisms” page, the PI needs to provide information regarding the acquisition of the materials, including the source and catalog numbers.
 6. On the “Facilities & Locations” page, the PI did not indicate what eye protection would be utilized.
 7. On the “Personnel” page, the most applicable role, job title, and primary phone number fields must be completed. In addition, under the “Select Activities” tab, *Escherichia coli* must be selected.
 8. On the “Safety” page, the PI answered “no” to the following question: “Is mouth-pipetting or suctioning of any hazardous materials, biohazardous materials, or insects prohibited in the laboratory?” This answer should be changed to “yes.”
 9. On the “Safety” page, all questions under the heading “Laboratory Access” must be answered.
 10. All personnel must complete the assigned training.
- xii. IBC Lab Assessment Results:
1. Site assessment will be completed on May 20, 2026.
- xiii. Motion: Motion to approve pending requested modifications.
- xiv. Vote: For: 7; Against: 0; Abstain: 1; Absent: 2

VI. New Business

- a. None.

VII. Old Business

- a. None.

VIII. IBC Training and Continuing Education

- a. Ghosh, et al. *How Forming a Department-Specific Employee Safety Team Impacted Mitigating Risk and Improving the Safety Culture in an Animal Resources Core Facility*. Applied Biosafety.
<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1089/apb.2024.0066>

IX. Meeting Adjournment

- a. 3:09 p.m.