

University Of Montana, Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) Meeting Minutes

Location: HS108/TEAMS

Date: July, 24, 2025

Members Present: Linda Hicks, Dionne Peterson, Zach Scott, Nigel Priestley, Ben Mason

Attended via Zoom: Brent Ryckman, John Portis

Members Absent: Cindy Farr, Asia Riel, Travis Hughes, Pam Broussard, Scott Samuels

Quorum Met: YES

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Dr. Brent Ryckman, at 1:03 PM.

2. Conflict of Interest Statement

The Chair asked if any member had a conflict of interest with any agenda item.

- Priestley will recuse himself from approval discussion and voting on protocol #0010
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3. Outside Attendance

- The Chair introduced our new Environmental Health and Safety Director, Mark Hlebichuk. Mark will be appointed to the committee and will replace current EHS representative.
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4. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: March 26, 2025

- **Discussion:** No concerns were voiced.
 - **Motion:** To approve the minutes as written.
 - **Voting:** The Committee voted unanimously to approve.
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5. Protocols and Amendments for Committee Discussion

A. 0017 (Morrow), Research, De Novo Renewal, "Surveillance of antibiotic resistant bacterial strains in the Beaverhead River drainage," r/sNA, Infectious Agents/Microorganisms.

- **Applicable NIH Guidelines:** III-F-1, Appendix C-II.
- **Training:** PI and staff listed need to complete training.
- **Committee Discussion:** Work covers isolation of environmental isolates from river drainage to determine if local waterways serve as a reservoir for antibiotic resistance genes due to proximity to agribusinesses. Lab will isolate Gram-negative bacteria by culture media. Isolates showing ampicillin or tetracycline resistance will undergo 16s rRNA gene sequencing for genus-level identification. The lab functions at a BSL-2 level, and work is currently categorized as using RG1 organisms until further identification can be made. Routine work with environmental isolates and E coli K-12 species is performed.
 - Overview: Clarification in project description regarding vectors and genes used for cloning. Risk Group and BSL level are incorrect.
 - Vector/Plasmid: Clarify source of vectors

- Infectious Agents/Microorganisms: Clarification needed between vector and microorganisms; wording is confusing. Provide information on the attenuation of E. coli K-12 strains. Clarification on lab exposure requested. How agent can be spread needs clarification.
- Accidental Spill/Splash: Clarification on disposal of liquid waste.
- OHS: Update and clarify OHS section as requested.
- Personnel-Complete information for all personnel and attach appropriate CITI training documentation.
- **Motion:** A motion was made to approve, pending modifications and clarifications to gain final approval.
- **Voting:** The Committee voted to approve the submission pending required modifications, updates to training, and corrections from the Principal Investigator. Final approval is contingent upon the satisfactory resolution of these items. The Biosafety Officer will notify the PI of the necessary changes.

B. 0010 (Stierle), Research, De Novo Renewal. "Rapid dissection of the biosynthesis of antiMRSA antibiotics produced in coculture by extremophilic fungi through the development of Fungal Artificial Chromosome." r/sNA, Infectious Agents/Microorganisms.

- **Committee Member Priestley recused himself from the discussion and voting on registration 0010**
- **Applicable NIH Guidelines:** III-F-5
- **Training:** Training is current and up to date, certificates are attached. N95 fit testing needs to be completed with EHS
- **Committee Discussion:** Work is a continuation of the previous IBC registration and is in collaboration with Intact Genomics Inc of St. Louis Missouri. The project will study extremophilic fungi and potential antibiotics produced by using Fungal Artificial Chromosome (FAC). Microorganisms that will be cultured include RG1 and RG2 fungi. Lab will function at a BSL-2 level, previously operated at a BSL-1 level.
 - Overview: description needs to be rewritten in lay language. BSL level should be listed at BSL-2 rather than BSL-1
 - Vector/Plasmid: For tropism, "N/A" should be selected
 - Infectious Agents/Microorganisms: spelling error and clarification needed for Exposure.
 - Facilities: Correct BSL designations.
 - DURC/PEPP: Research does not fall under DURC/PEPP, responses need to be edited.
 - Accidental Spill/Splash Response: Reporting injury information is incorrect.
 - Occupational Health and Safety: Inventory control needs to be addressed.
- **Motion:** A motion was made to approve, pending modifications and clarifications to gain final approval.
- **Voting:** The Committee voted to approve the submission pending required modifications, and corrections from the Principal Investigator. Final approval is contingent upon the satisfactory resolution of these items. The Biosafety Officer will notify the PI of the necessary changes. Priestley recused himself from the vote.

C. 0039 (Morrow), Research, New. "Isolation and Identification of Bacterial Strains that Metabolize Polystyrene," Infectious Agents/Microorganisms.

- **Applicable NIH Guidelines:** Not Applicable
- **Training:** PI Training needed to be completed.
- **Committee Discussion:** Work covers isolation of environmental isolates from water and soil to isolate and identify bacteria that can metabolize polystyrene. The lab functions at a BSL-2 level, and work is currently categorized as using RG1 organisms until further identification can be made.
 - Overview: Description needs to be written in lay language, Risk Group for environmental isolates can be categorized as RG1 until further identification is made.
 - Infectious Agents/Microorganisms: Please add "Environmental Isolate" as agent. Clarify location of source samples.

- Facilities: BSC certification is needed.
 - OHS: Clarify bleach preparation.
 - Personnel-Complete information for all personnel and attach appropriate CITI training documentation.
- **Motion:** A motion was made to approve, pending modifications and clarifications to gain final approval.
 - **Voting:** The Committee voted to approve the submission pending required modifications, updates to training, and corrections from the Principal Investigator. Final approval is contingent upon the satisfactory resolution of these items. The Biosafety Officer will notify the PI of the necessary changes.

D. 0029 (Hasenkrug), Research, New Submission. "Purification of human hematopoietic stem cells for in vitro culture..."
Biological Materials, In Vivo Work.

- **Applicable NIH Guidelines:** Not Applicable
- **Training:** Complete and up to date, vaccine form needs to be completed by all personnel
- **Committee Discussion:** Work covers the purification of human stem cells from bone marrow to be used in vivo and functions at a BSL-2 level. PI is working on obtaining IACUC approval.
 - Overview: Make more lay.
 - Facilities: Update Facilities with appropriate equipment.
 - Transport: Correction of source location
 - OHS: Update needle stick and exposure incident information. Correct typos.
- **Motion:** A motion was made to approve, pending modifications and clarifications to gain final approval.
- **Voting:** The Committee voted to approve the submission pending required modifications, and corrections from the Principal Investigator. Final approval is contingent upon the satisfactory resolution of these items. The Biosafety Officer will notify the PI of the necessary changes.

E. 0014 (Miller), Research, De Novo Renewal. "Investigation of the innate and adaptive immune response to vaccination with pattern recognition receptor (PRR) adjuvants in vitro and in vivo using a murine influenza challenge model,"
Infectious Agents/Microorganisms, Biological Materials, In Vivo Work.

- **Applicable NIH Guidelines:** Not Applicable
- **Training:** Complete and up to date, three personnel are missing vaccine form and all need N95 fit testing.
- **Committee Discussion:** Work covers in vivo influenza challenge models with mouse-adapted influenza strains, work will also utilize commercially available cell lines and primary human cells obtained from whole blood. Lab functions at a BSL-2 level and PI has IACUC approval in place.
 - Overview: Description needs to be more lay and include what is the goal of this project.
 - Biological Materials: Edit wording regarding biological materials for both mammalian and human cells.
 - Infectious Agents/Microorganisms: Clarify attenuation process of strains and seasonal vaccine availability. Question relating to altered host range needs to be completed along with clarifying risk mitigation strategies. RG designation for inactivated virus needs to be corrected.
 - OHS: Clarify prophylactic vaccination statement and vaccine declination option for researchers.
- **Motion:** A motion was made to approve, pending modifications and clarifications to gain final approval.
- **Voting:** The Committee voted to approve the submission pending required modifications, pending occupational health and safety/EHS requirements and corrections from the Principal Investigator. Final approval is contingent upon the satisfactory resolution of these items. The Biosafety Officer will notify the PI of the necessary changes.

5. Other Business

A. NIH Memorandum on IBC Minutes, Roster and Maximum Transparency

Discussion: The BSO reviewed new changes to IBC meeting minutes and public posting of both approved minutes and IBC roster.

B. NIH Notice NOT-OD-25-127

Discussion: The BSO reviewed NIH notice NOT-OD-25-127 with committee and the committee was notified that all UM research was reviewed by the BSO, IBC Chair, and applicable PIs to ensure current research did not fall within guidelines outlined in the NIH notice. BSO notified the Associate VPR for Research Compliance on 6/27/2025 that there were no ongoing research activities identified at the institution that fell within the guidelines outlined in NOT-OD-25-127.

C. Exposure Incident, 7/17/2025

Discussion: BSO provided a report to the committee that there was an exposure incident reported to the BSO on 7/17/2025. The incident involved field work and a wild deer mouse and did not involve r/sNA and did not meet the reporting requirements to the NIH. The personnel reported the incident and completed a first report of injury through the MUS system and saw medical care with UM Occupational Health and Safety Physician.

D. New Policies for Review and Committee Input

- **IBC Meeting Minutes, Redaction and Public Access**

Discussion: Meeting ran over, the IBC will have time for input at the next scheduled meeting.

- **Policy and Procedure for Public Participation during IBC Meetings**

Discussion: Meeting ran over, the IBC will have time for input at the next scheduled meeting.

E. Committee Protocol Review Guide

Discussion: The BSO provided a committee protocol review checklist to help members review protocols and to assist in meeting discussions.

6. Adjournment

The IBC Chair moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:05 PM.

Next Meeting: September 17, 2025, 1:00-3:00 PM

Approvals

Approved by:

Dr. Brent Ryckman

Date: August 4, 2025

Prepared by:

Linda Hicks, BSO

Date: July 30, 2025