

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

**Location:** HS108/TEAMS

**Date:** September 17, 2025

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**Members Present:** Linda Hicks, Dionne Peterson, Pam Broussard, Scott Samuels, Brent Ryckman, Asia Riel, Travis Hughes,

**Attended via Teams:** Cindy Farr,

**Members Absent:** Zach Scott, Nigel Priestley, Ben Mason, John Portis

**Quorum Met:** YES

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### Call to Order

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

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### Conflict of Interest Statement

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

- Hughes will recuse himself from approval discussion and voting on protocol #0001
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### Outside Attendance

- The Chair introduced our new Environmental Health and Safety Director, Mark Hlebichuk. Mark will be appointed to the committee and will replace the current EHS representative.
  - The Chair introduced a new faculty member, Dr. Chirs Vassallo, who is interested in becoming a member of the IBC Committee.
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### Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

**Meeting Date:** July 24, 2025

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

#### **A. 0026 (Hay), Research, De Novo Renewal. "Regulation of ER/Golgi Transport." r/sNA, Biological Materials.**

- **Applicable NIH Guidelines:** Appendix C-I and C-II.
- **Training:** Training and risk assessment are current and up to date.
- **Committee Discussion:** Work will use recombinant gene expression in mammalian cell lines to study how gene products move through the secretory pathway, employing standard plasmid expression vectors (not viral vectors). The lab functions at a BSL-2 level, routine work with continuous mammalian cell lines are used.

- Options: C-II is selected under NIH guidelines but “Microorganisms” section is not selected. Clarify
  - Funding: List internal funding, other information can be removed.
  - NIH Guidelines: C-1 is selected, please clarify since no eukaryotic viruses are noted in registration.
  - Vector/Plasmid: Clarify source of vectors
  - Infectious Agents/Microorganisms: Complete information if using K-12 as noted in NIH Guidelines appendix C-II
  - Biological Materials: Select “N/A” for what will be exposed to biological materials.
- **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.

**B. 0057 (Gilbert), Teaching, De Novo Renewal. “BIOB 375 - General Genetics Laboratory,” r/sNA, Infectious Agents/Microorganisms.**

- **Applicable NIH Guidelines:** III-D-2
- **Training:** Training and risk assessment are current and up to date.
- **Committee Discussion:** Registration covers a 300-level teaching lab. Students will clone a gene from a pre-existing plasmid containing a *Borrelia burgdorferi* gene. Clones will be used to transform BL21 E. coli to express protein for SDS-PAGE analysis. DNA being used is from a RG2 organism but no culturing of the microorganism is being done. Lab will function at a BSL-1 level.
  - Committee had no questions or modifications.
- **Motion:** A motion was made to approve registration as written.
- **Voting:** The Committee voted to approve the submission. The Biosafety Officer will finalize registration and send the PI an approval letter.

**C. 0058 (Briknarova), research, renewal. “ Studies of PR/SET proteins and fibronectin fibril formation,” r/sNA, Biological Materials, Infectious Agents/Microorganisms.**

- **Applicable NIH Guidelines:** III-F-5, Appendix C-II
- **Training:** Training and risk assessment for PI and personnel incomplete.
- **Committee Discussion:** Work covers the use of human fibronectin to study the structure and function using vector expression systems. E coli will be used along with human and mouse cell lines. The lab functions at a BSL-2 level, and work is currently categorized as using RG1 organisms.
  - Overview: Make more lay.
  - Biological Materials: Exposure questions need completing
  - Infectious Agents/Microorganism:
    - Virulence for E Coli should be checked as attenuated and information completed.
    - Exposure to E coli: Question needs to be completed
    - Facilities: Minor clarifications
- **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.

**D. 0001 (Hughes), Research, De Novo Renewal. “Hughes lab research,” r/sNA, Biological Materials, Infectious Agents/Microorganisms.**

- **Committee Member Hughes provided information on the registration, committee had no questions. Member recused himself from the discussion and voting on registration #0001**
  - **Applicable NIH Guidelines: III-F-1, Appendix C-II.**
  - **Training:** PI training and risk assessment is complete and up to date. Training and risk assessment for some lab personnel is incomplete.
  - **Committee Discussion:** Work covers the expression and purification of human and mouse transcription factors in *E. coli* (BL21 and DH5a) and uses mammalian cell lines, including HEK293 and primary human cells. Studies support drug development efforts targeting transcriptional regulation in metabolic disorders and Alzheimer’s disease. The lab functions at a BSL-2 level, and routine work with RG1 *E. coli* K-12 species and commercially acquired primary human cells is performed.
    - Overview: RG2 can be unselected, RG1 is appropriate for agents listed.
    - Biological Materials: Signs and symptoms of exposure can be completed as “N/A”
  - **Motion:** A motion was made to approve, pending modifications completion of personnel training to gain final approval. One member recused from voting.
  - **Voting:** The Committee voted to approve the registration pending required modifications and corrections from the Principal Investigator and completion of training. Final approval is contingent upon the satisfactory resolution of these items. The Biosafety Officer will notify the PI of the necessary changes.
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## Other Business

- A. **Committee Comments in Cayuse**

**Discussion:** The BSO reached out to Cayuse regarding committee comments for registration reviews and retention of comments in the platform.
  - B. **NIH Initiative to Modernize and Strengthen Biosafety Oversight (NIH Statement 9/9/2025)**

**Discussion:** The BSO notified the committee of NIH statement from 9/9/2025 regarding NIH Initiative to Modernize and Strengthen Biosafety Oversight. The BSO provided the committee with a statement and will continue to update members as information is released.
  - C. **Exposure Incident, 7/17/2025, Follow-up**

**Discussion:** Follow-up to 7/17/2025, exposure incident. Personnel reported to BSO and the Occupational Health team that Sin Nombre Virus (SNV) test results from deer mouse were received and the mouse did not test positive for SNV.
  - D. **New Policies for Review and Committee Input**
    - **IBC Meeting Minutes, Redaction and Public Access**

**Discussion:** Policy was reviewed by the committee no comments or concerns were noted.
    - **Policy and Procedure for Public Participation during IBC Meetings**

**Discussion:** Policy was reviewed by the committee no comments or concerns were noted.
  - E. **IBC Committee Member Training:** BSO reminded members to complete CITI IBC Committee Member training. Training will also go towards PI Initial Biosafety Training.
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## Adjournment

The IBC Chair moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:10 PM.

**Next Meeting:** November 19th 1-3:00 PM

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## Approvals

**Approved by:**

Dr. Brent Ryckman

**Date:** January 14, 2026

**Prepared by:**

Linda Hicks, BSO

**Date:** September 21, 2025