

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

Location: HS108/TEAMS

Date: January 28, 2026

Members and Quorum

Members Present: Cindy Farr, Zach Scott, Nigel Priestley, John Portis, Linda Hicks, Dionne Peterson, Scott Samuels, Brent Ryckman, Travis Hughes, Chris Vassallo, Mark Hlebichuk

Attended via Teams: None

Members Absent: Pam Broussard, Asia Riel

Quorum Met: YES

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Dr. Brent Ryckman, at 1:02 PM.

Conflict of Interest Statement

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

- None

Outside Attendance

- None

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: September 17, 2025

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

Protocols and Amendments for Committee Discussion

A. 0065 (Ashcraft), Research, New. "Stress interoception," Biological Material.

- **Applicable NIH Guidelines:** None.
- **Training:** Training needs to be updated for PI and personnel listed.
- **Committee Discussion:** Work will collect human saliva samples to study stress indicators following a cold pressor task, samples will be shipped off campus for analysis. IRB approval is current. Lab functions at a BSL-2 level, due to collection of human samples.
 - Personnel: Biosafety and OSHA BBP training for both personnel are expired.
- **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. 0068 (Rau), research, New. "Adeno-associated Virus (AAV) for stereotaxic injections in mice." r/sNA, in vivo system.

- **Applicable NIH Guidelines:** III-D-4, III-E-3, Appendix C-VII
- **Training:** Training and risk assessment are current and up to date.
- **Committee Discussion:** Registration covers working utilizing AAV, commercially purchased, to study the function of eukaryotic cells. AAV is replication-incompetent and will not utilize helper viruses or cells. Genes encoded on vector

express reporter genes and are not toxic or oncogenic. Lab will function at a BSL-1 in vivo work will be done at ABSL-1 with a RG1 organism. IACUC approval is current.

- Vectors/Plasmids: Attach safety data sheets from company receiving AAV from
- In vivo work: section needs to be completed.
- **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.

C. 0063 (Franklin), teaching, new. "Microbiology Teaching Labs Montana Tech "BIOM 251/261," Infectious Agents/Microorganisms.

- **Applicable NIH Guidelines: None.**
- **Training:** Training and risk assessment for PI and personnel are up to date and complete.
- **Committee Discussion:** Registration covers a 200-level teaching lab. Students will be introduced to general microbiology techniques, including culturing, identification and staining. Multiple species of bacteria will be used in class all categorized as RG1 or RG2 organisms. Lab safety, PPE and exposure risks will be reviewed with all students. Lab will function at a BSL-2 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.

D. 0056 (Ferrini), research, core facility. "Flow Cytometry Core IBC," Biological Materials, Infectious Agents/Microorganisms, Nanoparticles.

- **Applicable NIH Guidelines: III-F-1, Appendix C-II.**
- **Training:** PI and personnel training and risk assessment is incomplete.
- **Committee Discussion:** Work covers flow cytometry core and cell sorting. Core has samples that range from biological materials (human and animal) to infectious agents/microorganism. The lab functions at a BSL-2 level, and requires project questionnaire for each project to be completed. Individual project must have IBC registration in place for samples. Samples are received both as fixed and unfixed samples.
 - **Overview:** Please list types of cells sorted and risks associated, explain operating procedure for what type of samples are required to be fixed and what type of samples do not have to be fixed before being proceeded. Please list machines in core facility and safety systems being used.
 - **Biological Materials:** Please list types of biological materials routinely used. Please describe signs and symptoms of exposure if cells are not fixed.
 - **Infectious Agents/Microorganism:** Define acronyms, select possible transmission routes.
 - **Spill/Splash:** Bleach must be made fresh, daily.
 - **Occupational Health and Safety:** List any possible vaccines (e.g., seasonal influenza, HepB), update exposure incident reporting, provide more information on the aerosol mitigation system and its function, what samples/procedures require the use of the AMS, attach SOPs and project questionnaire.
- **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.

Other Business

A. IBC Manual

Discussion: IBC Manual has been rewritten and open to committee comments before finalizing.

One comment was how to handle service animals in research and teaching labs. BSO will look into this and work with VPR to navigate this and determine a policy outline.

B. Monthly IBC Newsletters

Discussion: IBC Office has started sending out monthly newsletters, specific to the program and upcoming changes. Email is sent to all PIs and has the open to be forwarded and subscribed to, this is part of continued education for researchers.

C. PI Survey (IRB, IACUC, IBC)

Discussion: IACUC, IRB and IBC office have posted an online PI survey. Survey has been posted in the IBC newsletter, ORCS newsletter and “Under the M” online publication.

D. IBC Website

Discussion: IBC website is under construction and input is being asked on resources and information that would be helpful to UM researchers.

E. 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.

F. New Policies for Review and Committee Input

- **IBC-POL-004-Food and Drink in Laboratories**

Discussion: Policy was reviewed by the committee no comments or concerns were noted.

- **IBC-POL-005-Working with Human Cells, Tissues, Samples...**

Discussion: Policy was reviewed by the committee no comments or concerns were noted.

G. IBC Committee Member Training: BSO reminded members to complete CITI IBC Committee Member training. Training will also go towards PI Initial Biosafety Training.

Adjournment

The IBC Chair moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:44 PM.

Next Meeting: March 25th 1-3:00 PM

Approvals

Approved by:

Dr. Brent Ryckman

Date: February 2, 2026

Prepared by:

Linda Hicks, BSO

Date: January 30, 2026