

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

Location: HS108/TEAMS

Date: March 25, 2026

Members and Quorum

Members Present: Zach Scott, Linda Hicks, Dionne Peterson, Scott Samuels, Brent Ryckman, Travis Hughes, Chris Vassallo (arrived at 1:33 PM), Mark Hlebichuk, Pam Broussard

Attended via Teams: None

Members Absent: Cindy Farr, Asia Riel, Nigel Priestley, John Portis

Quorum Met: YES

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Dr. Brent Ryckman, at 1:10 PM.

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 #0070
- Vassallo will recuse himself from approval discussion and voting on protocol #0072

Outside Attendance

- None

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: January 28th, 2026

- **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. 0072 (Vassallo), research, new. "Selection of phenotypes from a random genome fragment plasmid library," r/sNA, Biological Materials, Infectious Agents/Microorganisms.

- **Committee Member Vassallo was not in attendance during registration discussion and voting.**
- **Applicable NIH Guidelines:** III-F-4, III-F-8, Appendix C-II-A
- **Training:** Training and risk assessments are not completed for all personnel and need to be attached.
- **Committee Discussion:** Registration covers pooled plasmid library containing 2–10 kb random fragments derived from Escherichia coli genomes isolated from humans and maintained in laboratory E. coli K-12. Lab will function at a BSL-2 with a RG1 organism.
 - i. Biological Material: Section can be deleted since it does not pertain to current work
 - ii. IA/MO: change from "wildtype" to "attenuated" for K-12 strain used
 - iii. Facilities: Checking PPE being used
 - iv. Personnel: Training and risk assessments must be completed and training certificates attached
 - v. OHS: Minor edit
- **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. 0070 (Hughes), Teaching, New. “Phar 362 microbiology lab (Teaching lab for Pharmacy Students),” Infectious Agents.

- **Committee Member Hughes provided information on the registration, committee had no questions. Member recused himself from the discussion and voting on registration #0070**
- **Applicable NIH Guidelines: None.**
- **Training:** Training and risk assessments for personnel listed are current.
- **Committee Discussion:** The teaching protocol will perform Gram staining and bacterial culturing on semi-solid media for a 300-level pharmacy laboratory course. Lab course will be taught using BSL-2 level and appropriate PPE.
 - IA/MO: Three bacterial species listed are designated by the ABSA as Risk Group 2 organisms. Although the vendor classifies these species as BSL-1, strain-specific information could not be provided by technical support. As a precaution, all work will be conducted at the BSL-2 level using appropriate PPE.
- **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. 0025 (Luis), research, de novo. “A framework for reconciling competing effects of competitors on disease transmission.” Infectious Agents, in vivo.

- **Applicable NIH Guidelines: None.**
- **Training:** Training and risk assessment for PI and personnel are up to date and complete.
- **Committee Discussion:** Registration covers work after the completion of in vivo field work sampling for parasitic and viral co infections. Parasites are not human specific and samples that have the potential to be infected with zoonotic virus categorized as a RG3 organism. Lab will function at a BSL-2 level, no culturing of RG3 organisms is done and work is complete with appropriate PPE inside a BSC. IACUC approval is in place and BSC is certified.
 - In vivo: Remove latex gloves, clarification on disposal methods.
 - Facilities: minor edit
 - Transport/shipping: additional clarification requested
 - Personnel: Certificates for some personnel are missing
- **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 Charter

Discussion: IBC Charter has been rewritten and updated. Committee discussed adding a term limit for members with the option for renewal. BSO will add a section to the Charter to address term limits with renewal; term limit will be set at three years. BSO will also create supporting documents. Charter and documents will be addressed at next scheduled meeting.

B. Exposure Control Plan

Discussion: BSO provided an updated version of the campus wide ECP. ECP will be managed by BSO, Workman’s Compensation Manager and EHS have been provided a copy.

C. Biological and Infectious Agents IBC Registration/Inventory

Discussion: The committee discussed methods for tracking infectious agents and hazardous materials stored in laboratories. EHS is implementing a digital platform to track hazardous chemicals. Infectious agents that are stored but not actively used will not need to be registered with IBC. A process will be developed to collect storage information from PIs maintaining Risk Group 2 or 3 agents, or human and non-human primate samples, in freezers. This approach will allow inventory of higher-risk materials while minimizing burden on PIs. PIs will be required to submit a new or amended IBC registration if stored materials are moved into active use. The BSO will coordinate with EHS on use of the new platform or develop a form to collect this information during IBC submission or renewal.

D. New Policies for Review and Committee Input

- **IBC-POL-006-Exposure Control Plan**

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.

Adjournment

The IBC Chair moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:18 PM.

Next Meeting: May 20th 1-3:00 PM

Approvals

Approved by:

Dr. Brent Ryckman

Date: April 1, 2026

Prepared by:

Linda Hicks, BSO

Date: March 28, 2026