

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

Location: HS108/TEAMS

Date: July 27, 2026

Members and Quorum

Members Present: Linda Hicks, Scott Samuels, Travis Hughes, Chris Vassallo, Mark Hlebichuk, Pam Broussard, Asia Riel, Claudia Eccles

Attended via Teams: Dionne Peterson, Abdulmajeed Kadri, Brent Ryckman, John Portis (arrived at 10:28 AM)

Members Absent: Nigel Priestley

Quorum Met: YES

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Dr. Brent Ryckman, at 10:02 AM.

Conflict of Interest Statement

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

- Vassallo will recuse himself from approval discussion and voting on protocol #0079

Outside Attendance

- None

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: March 25th, 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. 0073 (Voronina), Research, new. "Protein Expression in Tissue Culture Cells," r/sNA, Biological Materials, Infectious Agents/Microorganisms.

- **Applicable NIH Guidelines:** III-F-1, Appendix C-I and C-II
- **Training:** Training and risk assessments are not completed for all personnel and need to be attached.
- **Committee Discussion:** Registration will utilize commercial human cell lines to study protein production of human genes. Human cell lines and E. coli K-12 strain will be maintained in laboratory. Lab will function at a BSL-2 level with appropriate PPE.
 - Overview: More clarity is needed for project purpose.
 - Vector/Plasmid: Clarify exposure risk to expressing plasmid with inserts.
 - IA/MO: Change from "wildtype" to "Non-Pathogenic..."
 - Facilities: Check applicable agents being used at location listed
 - Personnel: Training and risk assessments must be completed and training certificates attached
 - S/S Response: Minor edits and clarifications
 - Risk Assessment: Please modify
- **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. 0080 (Wetzel), Research, New. "Examination of Intercellular Molecular Trafficking to CD4+ T Lymphocytes," r/sNA, Biological Materials, Infectious Agents/Microorganisms, In vivo.

- **Applicable NIH Guidelines:** III-F-1, Appendix C-I and C-II
- **Training:** Training and risk assessments for personnel listed are current.
- **Committee Discussion:** Registration will fluorescently tag the cell-surface and internal signaling proteins involved when T cells capture and respond to material from antigen-presenting cells. Imaging, flow cytometry will be used to study how this "molecule transfer" sustains T cell signaling and shapes immune cell survival and function. Work can be performed at BSL-1 but lab functions at a BSL-2. IACUC approval is in place. Flow cytometry will be performed in institutional core facility under approved IBC requirements.
 - Overview: Remove technical jargon from project description
 - Biological Materials: Ensure correct protocol number is listed
 - IA/MO: Ensure E Coli strain name is consistent throughout
 - Transport/Shipping: Complete section
 - OHS: Clarify relevant procedures.
- **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. 0079 (Vassallo), Teaching, New. "General Microbiology Lab (BIOM 361)," Infectious Agents/Microorganisms.

- **Committee Member Vassallo was not in attendance during registration discussion and voting.**
- **Applicable NIH Guidelines:** None
- **Training:** Training and risk assessments are not completed for all personnel and need to be attached.
- **Committee Discussion:** Registration covers teaching protocol and information for General Microbiology Lab (BIOM 361). Teaching lab will function at a BSL-2 level with a RG1 and RG1 organisms and appropriate PPE.
 - IA/MO: Separate out species as individual entries. Change from "wildtype" to "attenuated" for K-12 strains used.
 - Facilities: Ensure appropriate engineering controls are listed
 - Personnel: Training and risk assessments must be completed for staff listed
 - S/S Response: Minor clarifications requested
 - OHS: clarifications requested
- **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: The IBC Charter has been rewritten and updated. Following discussion at the March meeting, the Committee requested additional time to review the revised Charter before adoption. During the meeting, the Committee discussed removing the term limit provision at this time. If a term limit is determined to be necessary in the future, it can be reincorporated at the next scheduled Charter review cycle. The Committee also discussed creating a non-disclosure form for committee members to sign.

B. New Policies for Review and Committee Input: None at this time.

Adjournment

The IBC Chair moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:46 AM.

Next Meeting: September 16thth 1-3:00 PM

Approvals

Approved by:

Dr. Brent Ryckman

Date: September 09, 2026

Prepared by:

Linda Hicks, IACUC Director/BSO

Date: July 30, 2026