

Minutes for the Institutional Biosafety Committee Meeting

Tuesday, July 8, 2025

Google Online Meeting

1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

Committee Members Present:

Dr. Robert Marr, Mr. Nikolas Vistine, Mr. Paul Huber, Mr. Sebastian Rodriguez, Dr. Joseph Reynolds, Dr. Patricia Loomis, Dr. David Everly, Dr. Fabio Re, and Mr. Matthew Anagnostopoulos

Committee Members Absent:

Ms. Jacquelyn Casler and Dr. William Conrad

Public Members Present:

There were no requests from the public to attend this meeting.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order:

Dr. Robert Marr called the Institutional Biosafety Committee meeting to order at 1:02 pm with a quorum of committee members present.

Review of previous IBC Meeting Minutes

The IBC Committee reviewed the following Institutional Biosafety Meeting Minutes:

- May 13, 2025 meeting minutes were reviewed by the IBC members.

Dr. Robert Marr recommended a motion for the IBC members to approve the May 13, 2025 meeting minutes as written.

Motion to approve May 13, 2025 meeting minutes:

First motion: Dr. Joseph Reynolds

Second motion: Mr. Nik Vistine

The IBC members unanimously approved the May 13, 2025 meeting minutes as written.

New Business

The IBC committee reviewed and discussed the Recombinant DNA lab specific protocol submitted by Dr. Jessica Centa.

After the committee reviewed Dr. Jessica Centa's protocol, Dr. Robert Marr recommended a motion for the committee to approve Dr. Jessica Centa's recombinant DNA protocol as written.

First Motion: Dr. Joseph Reynolds

Second Motion: Dr. Fabio Re

The committee unanimously agreed to approve Dr. Jessica Centa's recombinant DNA lab specific protocol as written.

The IBC committee reviewed and discussed the Recombinant DNA lab specific protocol submitted by Dr. Sean Schrank.

The following recommendations were made by the committee members and this protocol must include the requested edits and updates to be completed before final approval.

- IBC members request a note be included in the protocol on the source of the viral stock (page 2, item 1b),
- IBC members request a reminder to Dr. Schrank that "10%" bleach must be used in the liquid trap (page 5, item 6)
- Storage of Viral Stocks: As an additional precautionary note, the committee reminds Dr. Schrank that viral stocks must not be stored in liquid nitrogen, due to potential risks. While this guidance is now included in current best practices, the form used by Dr. Schrank is an older version that does not contain this warning. Even though Dr. Schrank is currently using -80°C storage, the committee emphasizes awareness of this restriction regarding liquid nitrogen use.
- Clarification on EID_{50} : Dr. Marr will follow up to request a more detailed description and clarification of EID_{50} (50% Egg Infectious Dose), including its calculation and intended purpose within the protocol.

Based on the discussion, Dr. Marr recommended a motion for tentative approval of Dr. Schrank's protocol. Final approval will be granted after the requested updates and clarifications are submitted.

First Motion: Dr. Patricia Loomis

Second Motion: Mr. Sebastian Rodriguez

The committee unanimously agreed to tentatively approve this protocol with final approval after the recommended updates and information has been completed by Dr. Sean Schrank.

Update from Dr. Najla Arshad's research lab and use of Bacteriophages. Dr. Marr informed the committee of his decision to not require Dr. Arshad submit an amendment to her current recombinant DNA lab specific protocol.

- Dr. Marr informed the committee that Dr. Najla Arshad has initiated the use of bacteriophages in her laboratory. This activity was not included in the original submission of her Recombinant DNA protocol earlier this year. Upon review, Dr. Marr determined that the use of bacteriophages does not pose any significant biosafety risks and, therefore, does not require a substantial amendment to the current protocol.
- Dr. Marr advised that, given the low-risk nature of bacteriophages, no formal IBC vote is necessary. This update is being provided to the committee for informational purposes only. Dr. Marr will communicate to Dr. Arshad that she may proceed with the use of bacteriophages under her existing approved protocol.

Laboratory Best Practices

- In addition, Dr. Marr will remind Dr. Arshad of the updated institutional best practices, which prohibit the use of liquid nitrogen for the storage of biohazardous materials.

Old Business**Final Review of Dr. Mirek Dundr's Lab-Specific Protocol**

- Dr. Marr confirmed that all recommended changes from the IBC committee were made to Dr. Dundr's lab-specific protocol prior to final approval. Dr. Marr reviewed the implemented changes with the committee and verified that all revisions have been appropriately incorporated into the final version of the protocol.

Other Business

There were no other business agenda topics for discussion.

Adjourn

With there being no further business to discuss, Dr. Marr recommended a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:19 pm. The IBC committee unanimously approved the adjournment of the meeting.