NIH Institutional Biosafety Committee Minutes
Location: Rocky Mountain Laboratories
January 15, 2026
1:00 PM – 3:00 PM
Virtual via Microsoft Teams/In person at Building A Room 322

Members Present:
Quorum Met: Yes

☒	Sue Priola	Chair
☒	Andrea Marzi	Vice Chair
☒	Rebecca Anderson	Biosafety Officer
☒	Paul Beare	Lab Representative
☒	Chris Bosio	Lab Representative
☒	Megan Brose	Member
☐	Larry Brouwer	Local Non-Affiliated
☒	Chad Clancy	Animal Expert
☐	Erik Hoover	Local Non-Affiliated
☒	Scott Kobayashi	Lab Representative
☐	Jamie Lovaglio	Animal Expert
☐	Alida Merritt	Local Non-Affiliated
☐	Alexandra Scranton	Member
☒	Clayton Winkler	Lab Representative
☐	Todd Wohlman	Member
☐	Sonja Best	Ex officio
☐	Marshall Bloom	Ex officio
☐	Marcie Caldwell	Ex officio
☐	Frank DeLeo	Ex officio
☐	Heinz Feldmann	Ex officio
☐	Josh Kellar	Ex officio
☐	Brian Vickrey	Ex officio

Guests Present:

Michael Kujawa, Richard Baumann, Grace Markley, Kaitlyn Conners

Announcements & Call to Order

I. Meeting called to order by Sue Priola at 1:01 pm.
II. The IBC Chair reminded all members present to identify any conflicts of interest as each registration is reviewed.

Review of Past IBC Meeting Minutes

I. December 19th, 2025 Minutes
    a. Comments on minutes
        i. Page 3, II.b.Bloom.x. add the list of changes requested by the IBC.
        ii. Page 4, II.b.Long.x., and xi. Add the list of changes requested by the IBC.
        iii. Page 5, IV.a.iv. update to indicate that no changes were requested by the IBC.
        iv. Page 5, IV.a.ii and iii. Update to indicate that animals may be re-dosed with injectable anesthetic.
    b. The minutes were unanimously approved with minor modifications.

New Committee Business

I. BSO or IBC lead reviewer preliminary registration approvals since the previous meeting
    a. Pathogen only Registration Numbers – None
    b. rDNA and rDNA/pathogen Registration Numbers: None
    c. Registration amendments summary: None

d. Committee Discussion: None

II. Registrations for Committee review

a. Registrations for committee review:

i. None

b. Registration amendments for committee review:

Heinz Feldmann, PRD-22-143 Amend

i. Reviewers: Not applicable; No recombinant DNA work

ii. Review Summary and risk assessment: The amendment to the registration is to add mouse-adapted SARS-CoV-2 Omicron BA.5. This virus strain was developed at the University of North Carolina and has been published in the Journal of Virology. The lab plans to use this strain for vaccine efficacy studies in mice, as it enables the use of wild-type mice rather than mice that overexpress the human ACE2 receptor. Infection of wild-type mice with the mouse-adapted Omicron BA.5 strain results in disease progression that more closely mimics disease observed in humans following SARS-CoV-2 infection, making it a more appropriate animal model for vaccine efficacy studies.

iii. Committee Discussion: The committee noted that the animal biosafety level for the SARS-CoV-2 sections should be updated to ABSL-3, in some areas it was noted as ABSL-4. In the non-human primate animal section, the box for VLPs should be checked instead of recombinant cells. It was also noted that the PI should update the ASP titles to current ones and correct some "?" typos that occurred in the animal sample sections.

iv. Minimum PPE required, special practices, and recommended OMS consult if applicable: Disposable gown, double gloves, N95 or PAPR, and shoe covers.

v. Training:

1. Laboratory safety training (includes BBP training)
2. BSL-3 laboratory biosafety training
3. Select Agent Training (depending on lab space working in)

vi. Animal studies proposed: Yes, mice.

vii. The committee discussed the dual-use and ePPP potential of these experiments. The committee agreed that there were no dual-use or ePPP concerns with the proposal. The committee agreed that the registration meets the criteria for review by the DURC-IRE.

viii. Work is approved at BSL-3/ABSL-3.

ix. Relevant sections of the NIH Guidelines: Not applicable; no recombinant work

x. A motion was made to approve the registration pending the following changes or conditions and DURC-IRE review.

1. Correct animal biosafety levels in the SARS-CoV-2 sections to ABSL-3.
2. Add current ASP titles where applicable.
3. Correct "?" typo in the animal sections for other samples collected from animals.
4. Check the box for VLPs instead of recombinant cells in the non-human primate section.

xi. The committee unanimously approved with minor modifications pending DURC-IRE review.

1. Conflicts of Interest: None

2. Votes for: _9____ Votes against: _0_____Abstained: __0_____

Heinz Feldmann, RD-22-431 Amend

i. Reviewers: Clayton Winkler, Scott Kobayashi

ii. Review Summary and risk assessment: The Feldmann lab proposes to use two B6 infection influenza models, the first from the current bovine H5N1 and the second from an older H5N1 isolated from humans, to test protection by two different Advax-CpG adjuvanted vaccine candidates. These vaccine candidates are made by a collaborator, so no recombinant work is occurring at RML. The Advax is from plant polysaccharide and the CpG oligodeoxynucleotides is a TLR9 agonist from bacteria and viruses. The first protein they are studying is a recombinant matrix protein 2 ectodomain (Me2) from H5N1. The Me2 has a conserved sequence from Influenza A and they are looking for heterologous protection. This protein is formulated to contain capsomere carrier protein (VP1 capsid protein from murine polyomavirus) which helps it form a pentamer so multiple epitopes are exposed to the immune system. The second protein is a recombinant H5 hemagglutinin from a 2024 H5N1 circulating in cattle. The goal is that this vaccine candidate can impact the current health threat.

iii. Committee Discussion: The committee noted that the biological origin of the recombinant material should have bacteria and plant marked. It was also noted that the question "indicate the recombinant construct category", basic cloning should be checked, and viral full-length clone should be unchecked. The percentage of viral source genome is less than 60% so that should be checked and N/A should be unchecked. There were several minor typos in the summary for the description of how the recombinant molecules are being created that need to be corrected. An additional description was requested to be added for the role of the VP1 capsid protein from murine polyomavirus. The table referenced on page 3 was not included and needs to be added. The mouse and hamster sections need to be updated to indicate that the infectious material is non-replicative in this study.

iv. Minimum PPE required, special practices, and recommended OMS consult if applicable: Lab coat and gloves.

v. Training:
   1. Laboratory safety training (includes BBP training)

vi. Animal studies proposed: Yes, mice.

vii. The committee discussed the dual-use and ePPP potential of these experiments. The committee agreed that there were no dual-use or ePPP concerns with the proposal.

viii. Work is approved at BSL-2/ABSL-2.

ix. Relevant sections of the NIH Guidelines: III-D-4-a, III-E-1.

x. A motion was made to approve the registration pending the following changes or conditions.
   1. The biological origin of the recombinant material should have bacteria and plant marked.
   2. The question "indicate the recombinant construct category", basic cloning should be checked and viral full-length clone should be unchecked.
   3. The percentage of viral source genome is less than 60% so that should be checked and N/A should be unchecked.

4. Several minor typos in the summary for the description of how the recombinant molecules are being created need to be corrected.
5. Additional information should be added for the role of the VP1 capsid protein from murine polyomavirus.
6. The table referenced on page 3 was not included and needs to be added.
7. The mouse and hamster sections need to be updated to indicate that the infectious material is non-replicative in this study.

xi. The committee unanimously approved with minor modifications.
1. Conflicts of Interest: None
2. Votes for: _9____ Votes against: _0_____Abstained: __0_____

Rahul Suryawanshi, 24-RML-014 Amend

i. Reviewers: Sue Priola, Chris Bosio

ii. Review Summary and risk assessment: The Suryawanshi lab is proposing to add Epstein-Barr virus (EBV) to the registration as well as Lentiviral expression of glycoprotein H from EBV and Herpes Simplex Virus -1 (HSV1). EBV infection results in infectious mononucleosis (an acute, self-limiting febrile illness) in young adults that is characterized by fever, sore throat, abdominal discomfort, pharyngitis, tonsillitis, and tender generalized lymphadenopathy. The disease generally lasts 1 to 4 weeks; however, protracted illness or tiredness for up to one year can occur in some patients. Burkitt's Lymphoma can arise from early infection with EBV in B cells. EBV infections themselves are quite prevalent, affecting more than 90% of individuals worldwide in the first 20 years of life. The proposed work with Lentiviruses is to explore how glycoprotein H (gH) from (EBV or HSV1) affects the cGAS–STING immune signaling pathway, a key mechanism that recognizes viral DNA and triggers antiviral responses. Once cells are transfected, they will be infected with EBV or HSV to assess viral replication through plaque assays.

iii. Committee Discussion: The vector maps for this amendment need to be attached. There is a typo in the Recombinant Details section, it should state that cells will be infected with "either EBV or HSV1". The PI needs to add NIH Guidelines. In the recombinant section, check the box that the lentiviruses will be obtained from outside the NIH from a collaborator. The PI also needs to confirm cell lines/types used since the recombinant section and the EBV section list different cell types. The committee also noted that room 3118 needs to be added to the lab location list. In the Recombinant Materials section, the recombinant construct question needs to have eukaryotic expression checked as well.

iv. Minimum PPE required, special practices, and recommended OMS consult if applicable: Lab coat and gloves.

v. Training:
1. Laboratory safety training (includes BBP training)

vi. Animal studies proposed: No.

vii. The committee discussed the dual-use and ePPP potential of these experiments. The committee agreed that there were no dual-use or ePPP concerns with the proposal.

viii. Work is approved at BSL-2

ix. Relevant sections of the NIH Guidelines: III-D-1-a, III-E-1

x. A motion was made to approve the registration pending the following changes or conditions.
    1. The vector maps for this amendment need to be attached.
    2. There is a typo in the Recombinant Details section, it should state that cells will be infected with “either EBV or HSV1”.
    3. The PI needs to add NIH Guidelines.
    4. In the recombinant materials details section, check the box that the lentiviruses will be obtained outside the NIH.
    5. The PI also needs to confirm cell lines/types used, the recombinant section and the EBV section list different cell types.
    6. Add room 3118 to lab location list.
    7. In the Recombinant Materials Details section, the recombinant construct question needs to have eukaryotic expression checked as well.

xi. The committee unanimously approved with minor modifications.
    1. Conflicts of Interest: None
    2. Votes for: _9____ Votes against: _0_____Abstained: __0_____

III. Committee Review of Inactivation Procedures (if not reviewed under a registration)
    a. None.

IV. Standard Operating Procedures/Plans
    a. None.

V. Serious Adverse Events in Clinical Trials reviewed by the Committee
    a. None

Reports

I. Biosafety Officer Report – See attached

Around the Room/Committee Discussion

I. None

Adjournment

I. Meeting adjourned by Sue Priola at 01:37 pm

Next Meeting

I. Scheduled February 19th, 2026.

NIH RML Institutional Biosafety Committee Meeting

Biosafety Officer (BSO) Report

January 15, 2026

Business Conducted since the last IBC Meeting

A. BSO approvals
   a. None
B. Electronic business
   a. None

New business for IBC meeting

A. See agenda.

Division of Safety activities since the last IBC Meeting

A. Animal Study Protocols Review- Performed by Division of Safety staff
   a. 7 ASPs reviewed since the last IBC meeting.

B. Biosafety Training- Performed by Division of Safety staff

Type of Training	Number of Sessions	Number of Employees Trained
New Employee	n/a	n/a
Annual Refresher Lab Biosafety	n/a	n/a
Select Agent-Initial	n/a	n/a
Select Agent- Refresher	n/a	n/a
Select Agent- Visitor	2	3
BSL-3 Laboratory Biosafety-Initial	1	2
Practical Training	1	3
BSL-4 Laboratory Biosafety-Initial	n/a	n/a
Suit Training	n/a	n/a
Checklist Training	n/a	n/a
BSL-4 Laboratory Biosafety-Refresher & SA Refresher	1	1
Laboratory Biosafety Support Staff-Initial	n/a	n/a
Laboratory Biosafety Support Staff-Refresher & SA Refresher	n/a	n/a
BSL-4 Medical Emergency Egress Training	n/a	n/a

C. Biological Incidents to Report
   a. None

D. Other Updates
   a. The NIH Office of Science Policy no longer requires an annual report for our full-length clone lab.
   b. Biosafety Modernization listening sessions for NIH Intramural program at RML are scheduled:
      i. Thurs Jan 22 at 9:30 – 10:30 AM: IBC members
      ii. Thurs Jan 22 at 2:00 – 3:00 PM: Campus research staff
   c. Biosafety Modernization listening session with NIH Office of Science Policy for our region is February 12, 2026. More information here.