NIH Institutional Biosafety Committee Minutes
Location: Rocky Mountain Laboratories
September 17th, 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	☐	Alida Merritt	Local Non-Affiliated
☐	Andrea Marzi	Vice Chair	☐	Alexandra Scranton	Member
☒	Rebecca Anderson	Biosafety Officer	☒	Clayton Winkler	Lab Representative
☒	Paul Beare	Lab Representative	☐	Todd Wohlman	Member
☒	Chris Bosio	Lab Representative	☐	Sonja Best	Ex officio
☒	Megan Brose	Member	☐	Marshall Bloom	Ex officio
☐	Larry Brouwer	Local Non-Affiliated	☒	Marcie Caldwell	Ex officio
☒	Chad Clancy	Animal Expert	☐	Frank DeLeo	Ex officio
☒	Erik Hoover	Local Non-Affiliated	☐	Heinz Feldmann	Ex officio
☒	Patrick Hanley	Animal Expert	☐	Josh Kellar	Ex officio
☒	Scott Kobayashi	Lab Representative	☐	Brian Vickrey	Ex officio

Guests Present:

Rachel Feldman, Jessica McCormick-Ell, Richard Baumann, Grace Markley, Chris McGee, Krista Rexin, Heike Bailin

Announcements & Call to Order

I. Meeting called to order by Sue Priola at 1:00 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. August 20th, 2026 Minutes
    a. Comments on minutes
        i. The biosafety level in the Suryawanshi registration section viii should be corrected to state “BSL-3/ABSL-3”.
        ii. In the Suryawanshi registration, section x., add a statement that dissection should be checked.
    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:

Catherine Haigh, 26-RML-008

i. Reviewers: Sue Priola, Chris Bosio

ii. Review Summary and risk assessment: The registration describes visualizing neurons in live human neuronal cultures using AAV to deliver fluorescent proteins. In this way neurons can be specifically identified and imaged in organoids, assembloids, and organotypic cultures. These cultures will then be infected with either Borrelia or murine scrapie. The lab will work with human blood and body fluids (human cultures) as well. The following precautions should be added to the registration: All personnel should be offered the hepatitis B (HepB) vaccine. Please contact OMS at 406-375-9600 regarding HepB immunization.

iii. Committee Discussion: The committee discussed the registration and requested several items to be updated:

1. In the description section at the beginning of the registration, the PI needs to describe that they will be infecting the modified cells with Borrelia or murine scrapie.
2. A new human blood and body fluids pathogen section needs to be added. This section should describe the generation of organoids, assembloids, and organotypic cultures and source material for them.
3. In the AAV/Recombinant Materials Details section. Question: Indicate the recombinant construct (e.g. plasmid categories used), the PI needs to check the box for "Eukaryotic Expression"
4. In the Eukaryotic Cell Work Section (for AAV and Borrelia) the boxes for: "primary human cells" and "other" should be checked.
5. In the Murine scrapie/Material Handling and Storage section. The PI needs to list the refrigerator and freezer locations, not reference a different registration.
6. In the Assertions section/Programs used to mitigate attendant hazards related to this protocol, the PI needs to uncheck the following boxes: Animal care and use training, animal handling training, and select agent training.

iv. Minimum PPE required special practices, and recommended OMS consult if applicable: Lab coat and gloves, eye protection if potential for splashes.

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/ABSL-2

ix. Relevant sections of the NIH Guidelines: III-D-3-a, III-E

x. A motion was made to approve the registration pending the following changes or conditions.

1. In the description section at the beginning of the registration, the PI needs to describe that they will be infecting the modified cells with Borrelia or murine scrapie.
2. A new human blood and body fluids pathogen section needs to be added. This section should describe the generation of organoids, assembloids, and organotypic cultures and source material for them.
3. In the AAV/Recombinant Materials Details section. Question: Indicate the recombinant construct (e.g. plasmid categories used) the PI needs to check the box for "Eukaryotic Expression"
4. In the Eukaryotic Cell Work Section (for AAV and Borrelia) the boxes for: "primary human cells" and "other" should be checked.
5. In the Murine scrapie/Material Handling and Storage section. The PI needs to list the refrigerator and freezer locations, not reference a different registration.
6. In the Assertions section/Programs used to mitigate attendant hazards related to this protocol, the PI needs to uncheck the following boxes: Animal care and use training, animal handling training, and select agent training

xi. The committee unanimously approved with minor modifications.
1. Conflicts of Interest: None
2. Votes for: _10____ Votes against: _0_____Abstained: __0_____

a. Registration amendments for committee review:
None.

III. Committee Review of Inactivation Procedures (if not reviewed under a registration)
a. Alphavirus inactivation validation with AVL and Ethanol for Sonja Best
i. Inactivation procedure summary: The lab validated an inactivation protocol using AVL and ethanol on cell culture supernatants infected with Sindbis or Mayaro virus as surrogates for the Alphavirus family. The committee discussed that the appropriate controls were included and yielded the expected results. There was no viable Alphavirus remaining in any experimental sample after treatment with both AVL and ethanol.
ii. Committee Discussion: The IBC discussed the thoroughness and detailed explanation of the experiments and appreciated how clearly it was written. There were no concerns with the testing or write-up.
iii. The committee unanimously approved as written.
1. Conflicts of Interest: None
2. Votes for: _10____ Votes against: _0_____Abstained: __0_____

IV. Standard Operating Procedures/Plans
a. Draft BSL-3 Suite B SOP
i. SOP Summary: The update was to add the inactivation methods for AVL and ethanol.

ii. Committee Discussion: The committee noted that the maximum titer validated needs to be added at the beginning of the SOP.
iii. The committee unanimously approved with minor modifications.
1. Conflicts of Interest: None
2. Votes for: _10____ Votes against: _0_____Abstained: __0_____

V. Serious Adverse Events in Clinical Trials reviewed by the Committee
a. Not applicable.

Reports

I. Biosafety Officer Report – See attached.

Around the Room/Committee Discussion

I. None

Adjournment

I. Meeting adjourned by Sue Priola at 01:40 pm

Next Meeting

I. Scheduled October 15, 2026.

NIH RML Institutional Biosafety Committee Meeting

Biosafety Officer (BSO) Report

September 17, 2026

Business Conducted since the last IBC Meeting

A. BSO approvals
   a. Munster PRD 21-177
      i. Transfer to Andrea Marzi
   b. Munster PRD-22-200
      i. Transfer to Andrea Marzi
   c. Munster RD-21-441
      i. Transfer to Andrea Marzi

B. Electronic business
      i. 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	2	10
Annual Refresher Lab Biosafety	n/a	n/a
Select Agent-Initial	3	4
Select Agent- Refresher	n/a	n/a
Select Agent- Visitor	n/a	n/a
BSL-3 Laboratory Biosafety-Initial	2	4
Practical Training	1	1
BSL-4 Laboratory Biosafety-Initial	n/a	n/a
Suit Training	n/a	n/a
Checklist Training	2	2
BSL-4 Laboratory Biosafety-Refresher & SA Refresher	n/a	n/a
Laboratory Biosafety Support Staff-Initial	1	2
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. A Form 3 was submitted to the FSAP on 9/08/2026.
      i. The risk assessment determined that the risk category was no risk; however, the incident met reporting requirements for the FSAP.

D. Other Updates
   a. Division of Safety hosted a tour with staff from Providence St. Patrick Hospital, Bitterroot Health and MT Department of Public Health and Human Services this week. More staff from these groups will be coming next week.