INSTITUTIONAL BIOSAFETY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES

Chair: M.A. Amalaradjou
Meeting Time: 1:30 PM

September 4, 2025
Web Conference

Attendance

Voting Members	Role / Expertise	Present	Absent	Comments
Amalaradjou, Mary Anne	*IBC Chair*	X		
Brennan, James	*Animal Care Services*	X		
Cavallaro, David	*BSO, Voting NIH Contact*	X		
Chen, Yupeng	*Biomedical Engineering*	X		
Chidambaram, Ramaswamy	*Animal Expert*	X		
Heyduk, Karolina	*Plant Expert*	X		
Macierowski, Bobbie	*Local Non-Affiliated Member*	X		
Maltz-Matyschsyk, Michele	*Molecular and Cell Biology*	X		
Miller, Robert	*Local Non-Affiliated Member*		X	
Szczepanek, Steven	*Vice Chair, Pathobiology*	X		
Wright, Dennis	*Pharmaceutical Sciences*		X	
Non-Voting Members				
Delage, Danielle	*IBC Program Director* *NIH Contact*	X		
Lewchik, Brent	*EHS Director*	X		
Lucas, Melanie	*RICS Director*	X		Joined at 1:40 pm

The IBC has eleven voting members. A minimum of five members are required to conduct business. Nine voting members were present, meeting quorum.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:32 PM and opened with a review of the confidentiality statement.

I. Confidentiality Statement:

Members were reminded that all information provided in writing or discussed at this meeting may be sensitive or proprietary and must be considered confidential. In the interest of transparency, IBC meetings remain open to the public whenever possible. However, meetings may be closed to review confidential or sensitive information. Proprietary or private information will not be included in meeting minutes whenever possible, and may be redacted as necessary, prior to public release.

II. Conflict of Interest:

The committee was reminded that no IBC member may be involved in the review *(except to provide information if requested*) or approval, of a project for which there are real or perceived direct financial interests.

Potential conflicts of interest must be disclosed. When a conflict is declared that member is recused from committee discussion and voting portions of the review for that submission. Members were asked to declare potential, real, or perceived conflicts of interest with submissions on the agenda.

No conflicts declared.

III. Announcements:

None

IV. Review of Minutes:

Committee members and applicable PIs were provided an opportunity to review proposed minutes from the August 7, 2025 meeting. At the time of the meeting, no redaction requests were received regarding proprietary or sensitive information. In the event a request is received after approval, allowable redactions will be made prior to posting.

The committee had no comments or discussion.

The Chair moved to approve the minutes as written, which was seconded, with the following votes: 6 in favor, 0 opposed, and 3 abstentions. Abstentions were recorded for members who were not in attendance at the August meeting. MOTION CARRIED

V. Chair Report:

The Chair had no administrative actions to report since the last meeting.

VI. Biosafety Officer Report:

Laboratory audits are conducted periodically to assess facilities and lab practices to ensure compliance with all applicable Biosafety requirements. A summary of recent biosafety audits was presented to the committee.

Audit Report – August

- A total of 19 biosafety audits were conducted. 5 audits (42%) were performed in undergraduate teaching laboratories. 16 audits (84%) resulted in no findings.
- The highest frequency finding was overdue EHS refresher/retraining.

VII. Review of NIH Covered Experiments

Review #1	
PI Name	Barbara Mellone
Submission	Renewal #268R2P
Title	Centromere Specification in Drosophila
	Project Overview
Summary of Proposed Project	The laboratory uses Drosophila flies and Drosophila-derived cell lines in culture to analyze chromosome structure using microscopy and other molecular biology applications. Plasmids are delivered to cell lines using cellfectin. Transgenic fly lines are supplied by stock centers or generated by a commercial service using plasmids designed by the lab. No gene drives will be created. *E. coli*, strain DH5a, will be used as a host for plasmid DNA production. Deletion of centromeres will be detected using Fluorescent In-Situ Hybridization (FISH).
Agent Name	*E. coli* DH5a
Risk Group	RG1
Agent Characteristics	Non-pathogenic
rsNA Source Organism	*D. melanogaster, S. pyogenes* (CRISPR/Cas9)
Nature / Function of rsNA	Centromere function
Modifications	CRISPR/Cas9 systems target sequences for centromere function in flies and will not be expressed until the flies are crossed with a driver fly line. The UAS/GAL system does not allow the transgenes to be expressed if an unintended cross with a wild-type fly occurs. CRISPR will be used to knock out the centromere in somatic and germline cells in one experiment; and used to insert recombination cassettes flanking the centromeres in another. PI has stated that no gene drives will be created.
Experimental Manipulations	Transgenic fly lines, in-vitro, in-vivo
	Risk Assessment & Discussion
High Risk Manipulations	N/A
Risk Mitigation Strategies	BSC, Fly Traps
PPE	Lab Coat, Nitrile Gloves, Safety Glasses
Training & Expertise	All required EH&S trainings up to date
Containment & Practices	BSL-1; containment and practices noted as adequate
NIH Classifications	III-D, III-F
Primary Review Comments	PI has stated that no gene drives will be created. Fly traps are utilized, and the UAS/GAL system does not allow the transgenes to be expressed if a cross with a

	wild-type fly occurs. Minimal PPE is required when handling the flies and arthropod cell lines. PI must verify that microorganisms are not used to deliver rsNA to flies.
	IBC Motion & Vote
Committee Discussion	None
Motion	A motion was made to approve registration renewal #268R2P with conditions, that prior to initiation of new research, the PI will verify that microorganisms are not used to deliver rsNA to flies. The motion was seconded. The committee voted with 9 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions. MOTION CARRIED
Committee Action	The committee voted to approve renewal 268R2P with conditions, for a three-year term.

Review #2	
PI Name	Lauren Jones
Submission	Renewal #286R2P
Title	Hartford Biology Teaching Labs
	Project Overview
Summary of Proposed Project	Project 1 - General MCB Courses for undergraduates include the dissection of preserved fetal pigs, crayfish, and perch. Project 2 - Malate Dehydrogenase (MDH) Protein-Centric Molecular Life Sciences Course-Based Undergraduate Research Laboratory is a new course where students will learn and apply basic molecular biology techniques. Students will study the effects of a mutation on the structural and functional characteristics of MDH, enzymes required for cellular metabolism and energy conversion. Students will streak plates with non-pathogenic *E. coli* BL21 strains; wild type and recombinant strains expressing human MDH enzymes, hMDH2 and hMDH1. Proteins will be isolated using Ni-Affinity Chromatography and analysis of mutations include Bradford assays, SDS-PAGE, Enzyme Kinetic assays, and spectrophotometry.
Agent Name	*E. coli* BL21
Risk Group	RG1
Agent Characteristics	Non-pathogenic
rsNA Source Organism	Fluorescent Reporters (e.g. *A. victoria*)
Nature / Function of rsNA	Fluorescent Reporters, Mitochondrial Enzyme
Modifications	Mutation on the structural and functional characteristics of MDH, enzymes required for cellular metabolism and energy conversion
Experimental Manipulations	In-vitro studies
	Risk Assessment & Discussion
High Risk Manipulations	None
Risk Mitigation Strategies	Standard microbiological techniques, decontamination, and biohazardous waste disposal
PPE	Lab Coat, Nitrile Gloves, Safety Glasses
Training & Expertise	All required EH&S trainings up-to-date
Containment & Special Practices	BSL-1
NIH Classifications	III-E

Primary Review Comments	75% ethanol evaporates quickly and may not be suitable for surface decontamination. A disinfectant capable of longer contact time such as a 1:10 bleach solution or tuberculocidal product is recommended. Students will don appropriate PPE and hand washing practices will be enforced. Pipettes, plates, and tubes used for bacterial cultures will be placed in biohazardous waste containers and autoclaved prior to disposal. Glassware will be treated with a 10% bleach solution prior to sink disposal. The Bradford reagent contains methanol which is strongly acidic. Therefore, waste will be neutralized and disposed of with other hazardous organic waste. Otherwise, all other reagents used in this laboratory are nontoxic and sink disposal is adequate.
	IBC Motion & Vote
Committee Discussion	The start date of the research project was requested. A specific start date was unknown, but it is expected to be sometime this semester.
Motion	A motion was made to approve registration renewal #286R2P with the condition that prior to initiation of research the PI will revise surface decontamination products as requested. The motion was seconded. The committee voted with 9 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions. MOTION CARRIED
Committee Action	The committee voted to approve renewal 286R2P with conditions, for a three-year term.

VIII. Old Business:

None

IX. New Business:

1. The committee reviewed a recent NIH OSP-reportable incident. Mitigation strategies and policy updates were discussed. No further action is needed at this time.

X. Items from the Floor:

1. BSAA Webinar: D. Delage to send information to the committee.

No public comments to record.

Chair made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded. Meeting adjourned at 1:56 PM.

Next meeting scheduled for October 2, 2025 at 1:30 PM via web conference.
