

University of Rhode Island IBC

MEETING MINUTES

February 18, 2026

Zoom Meeting

The meeting was called to order on February 18, 2026 at 10:01 AM and a quorum was present.

ATTENDANCE

Voting Members Present:

Alessandra Adami
Jennifer Beninson
Megan Dyer
Robert Ireland
Heather McClary
John McLane
Louise Paquin
Alan Rothman

Non-Voting Attendees, Staff and Guests Present:

Gwen Carrier
Allison Jedson
Bailey Miller, PhD
Elizabeth Nadeau

Recording:

Heather McClary

Voting Member Absent:

Joel Chandlee
Ruitang Deng

ITEMS

1 Welcome and Opening Remarks

No items

2 Next Meeting Date and General Announcements

2.1 **Next IBC Meeting March 11, 2026**

2.2 **Introduce Liz**

2.3 **IBC members must not review, participate in the discussion of, or vote upon any research protocol for which they have a conflict of interest (COI) other than to provide requested information.**

3 **Review of Previous Minutes**

3.1 **December 10, 2025 IBC Minutes**

Review Type: Full Committee Review
Action: Approved
Effective Date: February 18, 2026
Vote: Total = 8; For = 7; Opposed = 0; Abstained = 1;

Discussion and Remarks:
LP moved to approve minutes as written

4 **Continuing Education**

No items

5 **New Studies**

No items

6 **Revisions**

No items

7 **Renewals**

No items

8 **Amendments**

8.1 **[432463-14] Mechanisms and pathological consequences of human bile salt export pump down-regulation by estrogen**

PI: Ruitang Deng
Reference Number: BI09-02-002
Submission Type: Amendment/Modification

Review Type: Full Committee Review
Action: Modifications Required
Effective Date: February 18, 2026
Project Status: Active
Project Expiration: March 19, 2029
Vote: Total = 8; For = 8; Opposed = 0; Abstained = 0;
Primary Reviewer: Megan Dyer
Secondary Reviewer: Jennifer Beninson

Discussion and Remarks:

Biosafety Level: BSL-1, BSL-2, ABSL-2
NIH Guidelines Section(s): III-D & III-E

This Amendment to an approved BSL2 IBC protocol adds an additional funding source, new laboratory personnel, and an additional vendor for rAAV. While the approved protocol included both in vitro and in vivo use of rAAV, the revised protocol includes the new proposed use of rAAV expressing potential oncogenic proteins in animal experiments.

Committee questioned the use of Hamilton syringes for tail vein injections (instead of a safer alternative). It was determined that the first cage change after injection should be performed by research staff, but subsequent cage changes can be performed by animal care staff due lack of excretion. All trainings complete; one employee still needs to be offered Hep B vaccination. The registration is somewhat vague regarding target genes, justification for new rAAV, and risks of specific procedures.

MD moved to approve pending modifications.

8.2 **[2370179-3] Antibiotics Discovery from Marine Mollusk Symbionts**

PI: Bailey Miller, PhD
Reference Number: BI2526-010
Submission Type: Amendment/Modification

Review Type: Full Committee Review
Action: Approved
Effective Date: February 18, 2026
Project Status: Active
Project Expiration: November 7, 2030
Vote: Total = 8; For = 8; Opposed = 0; Abstained = 0;
Primary Reviewer: Robert Ireland
Secondary Reviewer: John McLane

Discussion and Remarks:

Biosafety Level: BSL-1 & BSL-2
NIH Guidelines Section(s): III-F

Amendment to approved IBC registration proposing the use of additional plasmids for genetic manipulation of BSL1 environmental organisms. The additional plasmids have been previously used for similar genetic manipulations of other non-model bacteria. No changes are proposed to the overall scientific objectives, bacterial species to be used, or genetic pathways to be targeted.

The committee asked questions about the proposed new system for generating knockouts and knockins, addressing the method, localization of insertions, and any changes or increases in risk.

RI moved to approve as written

9 Other Submissions

No items

10 Adverse Events

No items

11 Other Business

No items

12 Office of Research Integrity Updates

No items

13 New Protocols or Renewals Approved by Expedited or Full Board Review

13.1 [2400650-1] Metabolic and proteomic contributors to selective neuronal vulnerability in Alzheimer's disease

PI: Merina Varghese, Ph.D.
Reference Number: BI2526-014
Sponsor: National Institute on Aging
Submission Type: New Project

Review Type: Expedited Review
Action: Modifications Required
Effective Date: January 20, 2026
Project Status: Deferred - Modifications Required

13.2 [2400675-1] Prader-Willi syndrome: von Economo neurons study

PI: Merina Varghese, Ph.D.
Reference Number: BI2526-015
Sponsor: N/A
Submission Type: New Project

Review Type: Expedited Review
Action: Modifications Required
Effective Date: January 20, 2026

Project Status: Deferred - Modifications Required

14 Amendments Approved by Expedited Review or Full Board Review

14.1 [1522485-9] Molecular mechanisms of neuronal degeneration

PI: Claudia Fallini

Reference Number: B11920-003

Submission Type: Amendment/Modification

Review Type: Full Committee Review

Action: Approved

Effective Date: January 27, 2026

Project Status: Active

Project Expiration: December 16, 2029

15 Administrative Approvals

No items

16 Terminations

No items

17 Adjournment

Review Type: Full Committee Review

Action: Approved

Effective Date: February 18, 2026

Vote: Total = 8; For = 8; Opposed = 0; Abstained = 0;

Discussion and Remarks:

RI moved to adjourn

The meeting adjourned on February 18, 2026 at 10:36 AM.