

University of Rhode Island IBC

MEETING MINUTES

April 8, 2026

Zoom meeting

The meeting was called to order on April 8, 2026 at 10:01 AM and a quorum was present.

ATTENDANCE

Voting Members Present:

Joel Chandlee
Ruitang Deng
Megan Dyer
Robert Ireland
Louise Paquin
Alan Rothman
John McLane
Jennifer Beninson

Non-Voting Attendees, Staff, and Guests Present:

Gwen Currier
Allison Jedson
Elizabeth Nadeau

Recording:

Gwen Currier

Voting Members Absent:

Alessandra Adami
Heather McClary

ITEMS

- 1 **Welcome and Opening Remarks**
No items.
- 2 **Next Meeting Date and General Announcements**

2.1 **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.**

2.2 **May 13 2026 Next IBC Meeting**

3 **Review of Previous Minutes**

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

Discussion and Remarks:

LP moved to approve minutes as written.

3.1 **2/18/2026 IBC Minutes - No meeting in March 2026**

4 **Continuing Education**

No items.

5 **New Studies**

5.1 **[2428752-1] Optimizing nutrition to support metabolic shifts and muscle health in a new human spaceflight analog**

PI: Marie Mortreux, PhD
Reference Number: BI2526-017
Submission Type: New Project

Review Type: Full Committee Review
Action: Modifications Required
Effective Date: April 8, 2026
Project Status: Deferred - Modifications Required
Vote: Total = 8; For = 8; Opposed = 0; Abstained = 0;
Primary Reviewer: Ruitang Deng
Secondary Reviewer: Robert Ireland

Discussion and Remarks:

This is a new project in collaboration with the University of Pittsburgh that will be putting human participants in a chemical "hibernation" for 20 hours a day for 5 days to see if this could be a sustainable countermeasure for spaceflight. No human participants at URI will be used. The PI will be receiving blood samples throughout the study from the University of Pittsburgh and will be

analyzed by her laboratory to quantify metabolites. This will allow them to better understand the human participants' metabolic state, the nutrition aspects from the hibernation-like state on appetite, hormonal markers and muscle health.

The committee questioned how human samples will be shipped. The PI confirmed samples have already been safely shipped by a medical supplier specifically used for biological samples, on dry ice. The committee requested more information about the cold-sleep study, including the sample size, health status of the subjects, and how blood samples will be drawn. All trainings complete, hepatitis B vaccine was recommended. The PI was asked if personnel were sent a hep. B declination form or an agreement for this and if it was mentioned in the protocol. The PI acknowledged she will ask for this.

RD moved to approve pending modifications.

6 Revisions

No items.

7 Renewals

No items.

8 Amendments

8.1 [1524086-7] Surgical Cardioprotection through BKCa-dependent modulation of mitochondrial supercomplexes (IBC protocol)

PI: Richard Clements, PhD

Reference Number: B11920-004

Sponsor: NIH

Submission Type: Amendment/Modification

Review Type: Full Committee Review

Action: Modifications Required

Effective Date: April 8, 2026

Project Status: Active

Project Expiration: April 6, 2030

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

Primary Reviewer: John McLane

Secondary Reviewer: Megan Dyer

Discussion and Remarks:

This IBC amendment is proposing to add recombinant AAV as a viral vector and new experimental procedures involving administration of rAAV in mice. The PI's current approved registration covers research involving cell culture and manipulation of cells using recombinant adenovirus vectors.

The committee voiced concerns about the risk of AAV having the ability to infect humans. The PI clarified that shedding is going to be minimal in mice and will be housed in BSL2 for 72 hours. Animals will also be anesthetized for the injections, so the chance of an individual getting a needle stick will be low. A few typographical errors were noted and personnel training dates and biosafety certifications have expired and will need to be updated.

JM moved to approve pending modifications.

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 [2366475-3] Evaluating the in vitro activity of Cefiderocol and combination therapy against metallo- β -lactamase producing bacteria

PI: Thomas Lavoie, PharmD

Reference Number: BI2526-011

Sponsor: Shionogi

Submission Type: New Project

Review Type: Full Committee Review

Action: Approved

Effective Date: March 2, 2026

Project Status: Active

Project Expiration: March 2, 2031

13.2 [2327735-3] Binding of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) to human and animal tissues

PI: Fabian Fischer, PhD

Reference Number: BI2425-008

Sponsor: URI start-up

Submission Type: Amendment/Modification

Review Type: Expedited Review

Action: Modifications Required

Effective Date: March 13, 2026

Project Status: Active

Project Expiration: September 3, 2030

13.3 [1539015-7] Regulation of bile acid metabolism in human liver by nuclear receptors

PI: Nisanne Ghonem, PharmD, PhD
Reference Number: BI1920-007
Submission Type: Continuing Review/Progress Report

Review Type: Expedited Review
Action: Modifications Required
Effective Date: April 1, 2026
Project Status: Deferred - Modifications Required
Project Expiration: December 17, 2025

13.4 **[2415508-1] SweetPea Trial (IBC)**

PI: Brietta Oaks
Reference Number: BI2526-016
Submission Type: New Project

Review Type: Expedited Review
Action: Modifications Required
Effective Date: March 19, 2026
Project Status: Deferred - Modifications Required

13.5 **[2400675-2] 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: Approved
Effective Date: March 23, 2026
Project Status: Active
Project Expiration: March 23, 2031

13.6 **[2400650-2] 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: Approved
Effective Date: March 23, 2026
Project Status: Active

Project Expiration: March 23, 2031

13.7 **[2389985-2] IBC: Development of biomaterial drug delivery systems**

PI: Ting-Yu Shih, PhD

Reference Number: BI2526-012

Submission Type: New Project

Review Type: Full Committee Review

Action: Modifications Required

Effective Date: April 1, 2026

Project Status: Deferred - Modifications Required

14 **Amendments Approved by Expedited Review or Full Board Review**

14.1 **[1522485-10] Molecular mechanisms of neuronal degeneration**

PI: Claudia Fallini

Reference Number: BI1920-003

Submission Type: Amendment/Modification

Review Type: Full Committee Review

Action: Modifications Required

Effective Date: March 2, 2026

Project Status: Active

Project Expiration: December 16, 2029

14.2 **[2144229-6] Stereotactic injections of modified AAV in rabbits**

PI: Katharina Quinlan, PhD

Reference Number: BI2324-006

Sponsor: NIH

Submission Type: Amendment/Modification

Review Type: Expedited Review

Action: Approved

Effective Date: March 8, 2026

Project Status: Active

Project Expiration: April 2, 2029

14.3 **[1522485-11] Molecular mechanisms of neuronal degeneration**

PI: Claudia Fallini

Reference Number: BI1920-003

Submission Type: Amendment/Modification

Review Type: Full Committee Review
Action: Approved
Effective Date: March 23, 2026
Project Status: Active
Project Expiration: December 16, 2029

Discussion and Remarks:

Section III- D (rDNA WORK) and III-E /BSL-2 work

14.4 **[432463-15] 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: Approved
Effective Date: March 24, 2026
Project Status: Active
Project Expiration: March 19, 2029

15 **Administrative Approvals**

15.1 **[1547764-8] CMB 332: Medical and Public Health Microbiology Laboratory**

PI: Neil Greene, PhD
Reference Number: BI1920-009
Submission Type: Amendment/Modification

Review Type: Administrative Review
Action: Approved
Effective Date: March 2, 2026
Project Status: Active
Project Expiration: February 18, 2030

15.2 **[2368715-4] Engineered Clostridium novyi-NonToxic for Therapeutic Applications**

PI: Kaitlin Dailey, PhD
Reference Number: BI2526-009
Submission Type: Amendment/Modification

Review Type: Administrative Review
Action: Approved
Effective Date: March 9, 2026
Project Status: Active

Project Expiration: December 15, 2030

15.3 **[2368715-5] Engineered Clostridium novyi-NonToxic for Therapeutic Applications**

PI: Kaitlin Dailey, PhD
Reference Number: BI2526-009
Submission Type: Amendment/Modification

Review Type: Administrative Review
Action: Approved
Effective Date: April 1, 2026
Project Status: Active
Project Expiration: December 15, 2030

16 **Terminations**

No items.

16.1 **[1713255-4] Eating Behavior and Cortisol Levels in Adult Women of Reproductive Age - IBC**

PI: Brietta Oaks, Ph.D., MPH
Reference Number: BI2021-006
Submission Type: Closure/Final Report

Review Type: Administrative Review
Action: Closed
Effective Date: April 1, 2026
Project Status: Closed

16.2 **[1155400-11] Porous microparticle substrates for three-dimensional tumor formation and anticancer drug screening, Nanoparticles for cancer drug delivery applications**

PI: Jyothi Menon, PhD
Reference Number: BI1718-006
Sponsor: RI-INBRE (if funded), RI foundation (if funded), start-up funds
Submission Type: Closure/Final Report

Review Type: Administrative Review
Action: Closed
Effective Date: March 26, 2026
Project Status: Closed

Discussion and Remarks:

Closed PI no longer at URI

17 **Adjournment**

Review Type: Full Committee Review

Action: Approved
Effective Date: April 8, 2026
Vote: Total = 8; For = 8; Opposed = 0; Abstained = 0;

Discussion and Remarks:

JB moved to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned on April 8, 2026 at 10:35 AM.