University of Rhode Island IBC

MEETING MINUTES

September 9, 2026

Zoom Meeting

The meeting was called to order on September 9, 2026 at 10:00 AM and a quorum was present.

ATTENDANCE

Voting Members Present:
Ruitang Deng
Megan Dyer
Robert Ireland
Heather McClary
John McLane
Louise Paquin
Alan Rothman
Joel Chandlee

Non-Voting Attendees, Staff and Guests Present:
Gwen Currier
Allison Jedson
Elizabeth Nadeau

Recording:
Gwen Currier

Voting Members Absent:
Alessandra Adami
Jennifer Beninson

ITEMS

1 **Welcome and Opening Remarks**
No items.

2 **Next Meeting Date and General Announcements**
1. October 14, 2026 @ 10:00am via Zoom.

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2. MD announced that EH&S has switched from BrightSpace to a new lab safety software management system called: OnSite. PI's will need to add individuals to each "permit" and assign training modules. Tutorials can be found under the "OnSite Systems Lab Safety Software" tile on the URI EH&S website.

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.**

3 **Review of Previous Minutes**

Review Type:	Full Committee Review
Action:	Approved
Effective Date:	September 9, 2026
Vote:	Total = 8; For = 8; Opposed = 0; Abstained = 0;

3.1 **July 15, 2026 IBC Minutes**

Discussion and Remarks:

LP moved to approve the minutes as written.

4 **Continuing Education**

No items.

5 **New Studies**

No items.

6 **Revisions**

No items.

7 **Renewals**

7.1 **[271767-46] Pathogenesis and Immunity of Emerging Virus Diseases**

PI:	Alan Rothman, MD
Reference Number:	BI11-01-006
Sponsor:	NIH
Submission Type:	Continuing Review/Progress Report
Review Type:	Full Committee Review
Action:	Modifications Required
Effective Date:	September 9, 2026
Project Status:	Active
Project Expiration:	September 20, 2026

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Vote:	Total = 7; For = 7; Opposed = 0; Abstained = 0;
	Recused = 1 (Alan Rothman)
Primary Reviewer:	Heather McClary
Secondary Reviewer:	Robert Ireland

Discussion and Remarks:

Biosafety Level: BSL-2
NIH Guidlines Section(s): III-D

The overall objective of this research is to understand the viral and immunologic mechanisms underlying human viral diseases. The PI studies a range of human viral infections, focusing on flaviviruses (dengue and related viruses). The overall goal is to understand disease pathogenesis and identify candidate countermeasures (therapeutics and vaccines) for many of these diseases there are no specific therapies available and vaccines are either unavailable or suboptimal.

The committe had commented if there had been incidents involving biosafety in the past 5 years, and if so, what the severity was, and how it was resolved. Inconsistencies were found in the registration that need to be corrected (i.e. agents treated with bleach for 10 minutes vs. 30 minutes prior to discharge). The PI should also address if personnel can refuse, or if they receive vaccines, how effective they are.

AR recused himself at 11:02am.

HM moved to approve pending modifications.

8 Amendments

8.1 [2389985-4] IBC: Development of biomaterial drug delivery systems

PI:	Ting-Yu Shih, PhD
Reference Number:	BI2526-012
Submission Type:	Amendment/Modification
Review Type:	Full Committee Review
Action:	Modifications Required
Effective Date:	September 9, 2026
Project Status:	Active
Project Expiration:	April 20, 2031
Vote:	Total = 8; For = 8; Opposed = 0; Abstained = 0;
Primary Reviewer:	Ruitang Deng
Secondary Reviewer:	John McLane

Discussion and Remarks:

Biosafety Level: BSL-1, BSL-2, ABSL-1
NIH Guidlines Section(s): III-E, III-F

This amendment includes the additon of new personnel, three new procedures, injection routes, new cell lines and agents in collaboration with Dr. Van Nostrand. There is no increase in risk but the reviewers wanted more information and the rationale for the cell lines listed in the registration. The *in vivo* work needs more specifics regarding what small molecule drugs will be used. The

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committee had training and safety questions related to the cell lines, antibodies conjugate and how chemotherapeutic drugs will be managed by personnel. The PI will need to add his personnel to OnSite to complete training modules for chemotherapeutics and any expired lab safety training.

RD made a motion 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**

12.1 **Request for Comment: Draft NIH Biosafety Policy for Research Involving Biohazards https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-26-112.html**

HM asked the committee to review the new NIH guidelines. No questions were raised by the committee.

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

13.1 **[1784212-2] Reducing complexity in vivo enables investigation of Cellulose Synthase-like D complex formation, trafficking and function**

PI:	Alison Roberts, PhD
Reference Number:	BI2021-009
Sponsor:	NSF
Submission Type:	Continuing Review/Progress Report
Review Type:	Expedited Review
Action:	Modifications Required
Effective Date:	July 16, 2026
Project Status:	Active
Project Expiration:	August 3, 2026

13.2 **[2428752-2] 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

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Review Type: Expedited Review
Action: Approved
Effective Date: July 13, 2026
Project Status: Active
Project Expiration: July 13, 2031

13.3 **[1539015-8] 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: Approved
Effective Date: July 21, 2026
Project Status: Active
Project Expiration: July 21, 2031

13.4 **[1784212-3] Reducing complexity in vivo enables investigation of Cellulose Synthase-like D complex formation, trafficking and function**

PI: Alison Roberts, PhD
Reference Number: BI2021-009
Sponsor: NSF
Submission Type: Continuing Review/Progress Report

Review Type: Expedited Review
Action: Approved
Effective Date: July 27, 2026
Project Status: Active
Project Expiration: July 27, 2031

13.5 **[2464774-1] Collaborative Research: Deciphering the evolutionary plasticity of recycling complexes in plants. Sponsor: National Science Foundation.**

PI: Alison Roberts, PhD
Reference Number: BI2627-001
Sponsor: NSF
Submission Type: New Project

Review Type: Expedited Review
Action: Modifications Required
Effective Date: August 11, 2026
Project Status: Deferred - Modifications Required

13.6 **[865334-7] Growth of Escherichia coli**

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PI: Jodi Camberg
Reference Number: BI1516-008
Submission Type: Continuing Review/Progress Report

Review Type: Expedited Review
Action: Modifications Required
Effective Date: August 12, 2026
Project Status: Active
Project Expiration: August 13, 2026

13.7 **[2464774-2] Collaborative Research: Deciphering the evolutionary plasticity of recycling complexes in plants. Sponsor: National Science Foundation.**

PI: Alison Roberts, PhD
Reference Number: BI2627-001
Sponsor: NSF
Submission Type: New Project

Review Type: Expedited Review
Action: Approved
Effective Date: August 28, 2026
Project Status: Active
Project Expiration: August 28, 2030

13.8 **[865334-8] Growth of Escherichia coli**

PI: Jodi Camberg
Reference Number: BI1516-008
Submission Type: Continuing Review/Progress Report

Review Type: Expedited Review
Action: Modifications Required
Effective Date: August 28, 2026
Project Status: Active
Project Expiration: August 13, 2026

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

14.1 **[992933-15] Improve influenza vaccine efficacy with novel delivery and adjuvants**

PI: xinyuan chen
Reference Number: BI1617-005
Submission Type: Amendment/Modification

Review Type: Full Committee Review
Action: Modifications Required

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Effective Date: August 5, 2026
Project Status: Active
Project Expiration: January 25, 2027

14.2 **[992933-16] Improve influenza vaccine efficacy with novel delivery and adjuvants**
PI: xinyuan chen
Reference Number: BI1617-005
Submission Type: Amendment/Modification

Review Type: Full Committee Review
Action: Approved
Effective Date: August 15, 2026
Project Status: Active
Project Expiration: January 25, 2027

14.3 **[1539015-9] Regulation of bile acid metabolism in human liver by nuclear receptors**
PI: Nisanne Ghonem, PharmD, PhD
Reference Number: BI1920-007
Submission Type: Amendment/Modification

Review Type: Expedited Review
Action: Approved
Effective Date: August 14, 2026
Project Status: Active
Project Expiration: July 21, 2031

15 **Administrative Approvals**

15.1 **[2415508-3] SweetPea Trial (IBC)**
PI: Brietta Oaks
Reference Number: BI2526-016
Submission Type: Amendment/Modification

Review Type: Administrative Review
Action: Approved
Effective Date: July 16, 2026
Project Status: Active
Project Expiration: April 10, 2031

15.2 **[2400650-3] Metabolic and proteomic contributors to selective neuronal vulnerability in Alzheimer's disease**
PI: Merina Varghese, Ph.D.
Reference Number: BI2526-014

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Sponsor: National Institute on Aging
Submission Type: Amendment/Modification

Review Type: Administrative Review
Action: Approved
Effective Date: July 16, 2026
Project Status: Active
Project Expiration: March 23, 2031

15.3 **[432463-16] 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: Administrative Review
Action: Approved
Effective Date: July 16, 2026
Project Status: Active
Project Expiration: March 19, 2029

15.4 **[2171363-5] Stereotaxic injection of recombinant AAV in mice**

PI: Marin Manuel, PhD
Reference Number: BI2324-007
Submission Type: Amendment/Modification

Review Type: Administrative Review
Action: Approved
Effective Date: July 23, 2026
Project Status: Active
Project Expiration: June 28, 2029

15.5 **[2144229-8] Stereotactic injections of modified AAV in rabbits**

PI: Katharina Quinlan, PhD
Reference Number: BI2324-006
Sponsor: NIH
Submission Type: Amendment/Modification

Review Type: Administrative Review
Action: Approved
Effective Date: July 23, 2026
Project Status: Active
Project Expiration: April 2, 2029

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15.6 **[2368715-7] 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: July 27, 2026
Project Status: Active
Project Expiration: December 15, 2030

15.7 **[2400675-3] Prader-Willi syndrome: von Economo neurons study**

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

Review Type: Administrative Review
Action: Approved
Effective Date: July 27, 2026
Project Status: Active
Project Expiration: March 23, 2031

16 **Terminations**

16.1 **[1793693-9] Lapse/Relapse During Community Integration of Substance Use Disorder Patients**

PI: Nicole Weiss, PhD
Reference Number: BI2122-001
Sponsor: NIDA
Submission Type: Closure/Final Report

Review Type: Administrative Review
Action: Closed
Effective Date: July 27, 2026
Project Status: Closed - Project Complete

17 **Adjournment**

Review Type: Full Committee Review
Action: Approved
Effective Date: September 9, 2026
Vote: Total = 7; For = 7; Opposed = 0; Abstained = 0;

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Discussion and Remarks:

MD moved to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned on September 9, 2026 at 11:10 AM.

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