

University of Rhode Island IBC

MEETING MINUTES

June 18, 2025

Zoom Meeting

The meeting was called to order on June 18, 2025 at 10:00 AM and a quorum was present.

ATTENDANCE

Voting Members Present:

Jennifer Beninson	Attending Veterinarian
Joel Chandlee	Scientific
Ruitang Deng	Scientific
Megan Dyer	Biological Safety Officer
Connie Heird	Community Member
Alan Rothman	Chair
Denise Williams	Community Member

Non-Voting Attendees, Staff and Guests Present:

Brahim Achour	Guest
Amanda Alker	Guest
Heather McClary	Staff
Jaime Ross	Guest
Angela Slitt	Guest
Christie Ward- Ritacco	Guest

Recording:

Gwen Currier	Staff
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Voting Members Not Present:

Marin Manuel	Scientific
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ITEMS

- 1 Welcome and Opening Remarks
- 2 Next Meeting Date and General Announcements

2.1 **Next meeting date July 16, 2025 at 10 AM via Zoom**

2.2 **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**

No meeting in May; April minutes not ready

4 **Continuing Education**

No items

5 **New Studies**

5.1 **[2322719-1] Assessing change in chronic stress, menopausal symptoms, and physical function**

PI: Natalie Sabik, PhD

Reference Number: BI2425-004

Submission Type: New Project

Review Type: Full Committee Review

Action: Modifications Required

Effective Date: June 18, 2025

Project Status: Deferred - Modifications Required

Vote: Total = 7; For = 7; Opposed = 0; Abstained = 0;

Primary Reviewer: Jennifer Beninson

Secondary Reviewer: Megan Dyer

Discussion and Remarks:

BSL / ABSL / BSL-P: BSL-2

NIH Guidelines Section: N/A

New registration for research involving collection and point-of-care testing of human fingerstick blood samples.

Various trainings and SOPs need to be updated. Recommended to dump used bleach into sink if pH is 5-9, also in BSC follow bleach with DI water and 70% EtOH. PI clarify the type of capillary to be used. Include details of work with human saliva.

5.2 **[2324452-1] Rhode Island Rhode Kill (Road Kill) Research**

PI: Kathleen Carroll, PhD

Reference Number: BI2425-005

Submission Type: New Project

Review Type: Full Committee Review
Action: Modifications Required
Effective Date: June 18, 2025
Project Status: Deferred - Modifications Required
Vote: Total = 7; For = 7; Opposed = 0; Abstained = 0;
Primary Reviewer: Megan Dyer
Secondary Reviewer: Jennifer Beninson

Discussion and Remarks:

BSL / ABSL / BSL-P: BSL-2

NIH Guidelines Section(s): N/A

New registration for research involving opportunistic collection of deceased wildlife in RI. Risks involve potential exposure to diseased animal tissues.

All personnel listed on IACUC and IBC protocols should enroll in Occupational Health Program and receive rabies vaccinations. There is some concern for potential exposure to H5N1. Recommend additional PPE/dedicated work clothing with shower and change before going home. Field staff must be diligent about wearing PPE and disinfecting hands with hand sanitizer after removing gloves. Wash hands properly when possible. PPE needs to be clarified while collecting road kill. Note N95 mask use requires medical clearance and fit testing. Some trainings need to be updated. Risk assessment should be more extensive and inclusive of all species to be collected and procedures to be conducted. Potential infectious agents present in roadkill: Hantavirus, LCMV, Salmonella spp., F. tularensis, HPAI, rabies, Leptospira spp., Pasteurella spp., ringworm, Coccidia spp., Campylobacter spp., Avian TB, etc. Need to specify the concentration of the bleach solution.

5.3 **[2327187-1] Quantification of enzymes and transporters in liver samples and extracellular vesicles**

PI: Brahim Achour, PhD, MPharm
Reference Number: BI2425-006
Submission Type: New Project

Review Type: Full Committee Review
Action: Modifications Required
Effective Date: June 18, 2025
Project Status: Deferred - Modifications Required
Vote: Total = 7; For = 7; Opposed = 0; Abstained = 0;
Primary Reviewer: Ruitang Deng
Secondary Reviewer: Connie Heird

Discussion and Remarks:

BSL / ABSL / BSL-P: BSL-2

NIH Guidelines Section: N/A

New registration for research involving proteomic analysis of healthy and diseased human liver and kidney tissues and transcriptomic analysis of healthy and diseased plasma-derived extracellular vesicles.

Human liver and kidney tissues as well as plasma samples will be used in the study. Was any information was provided regarding the health status of the donors? HIV, HBV and HCV tested or not? PI must provide more details about homogenization and tissue fractionation procedures, including how exposure is minimized. Practice Universal Precautions when working with human samples. Treat all samples as though infectious and wear gloves (+ other PPE). Bleach is generally used at 10% concentration (freshly prepared); replace 0.5% bleach with 10% bleach. For biohazard waste disposal: when a biowaste box is full, tape it up and take to the Biowaste Storage room on the second floor of Avedisian. Large spill cleanup: If lab staff have been trained and are comfortable cleaning up the spill, they can proceed. If help is needed, call Police Dispatch at (401) 874-4910. Tell them there has been a biological spill and you need help from the Biosafety Officer. They will contact the BSO. Be sure to give Dispatch a phone number so the BSO can call you.

5.4 [2327735-1] 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:	New Project
Review Type:	Full Committee Review
Action:	Modifications Required
Effective Date:	June 18, 2025
Project Status:	Deferred - Modifications Required
Vote:	Total = 7; For = 7; Opposed = 0; Abstained = 0;
Primary Reviewer:	Joel Chandlee
Secondary Reviewer:	Jennifer Beninson, Ruitang Deng

Discussion and Remarks:

BSL / ABSL / BSL-P: BSL-1 and BSL-2

NIH Guidelines Section: N/A

Research to understand how environmental chemicals and drugs interact with biomolecules of human or animal origin.

Some trainings and SOPs need to be updated. Briefly describe the planned manipulations of biological materials up to the point of inactivation. Include details and procedures involving non-human tissues or cells (including mouse and whale tissues). Text refers to "... human-derived biological materials including ... tissue homogenates." Please clarify as human tissue homogenates are not mentioned elsewhere. Will non-human tissues be handled in the BSC? If not, please justify. Under what conditions would sleeve protectors or double gloves be used? Practice Universal Precautions when working with human derived-materials. Refrain from using flammable materials in the BSC. Use freshly prepared 10% bleach for 10 minutes for decontamination; rinse with water after; may discard used bleach in sink if within pH 5-9. Clarify if metal syringes will be used.

5.5 [2329434-1] Genetic engineering in marine symbiosis bacteria and microbiomes

PI: Amanda Alker, PhD
Reference Number: BI2425-007
Submission Type: New Project

Review Type: Full Committee Review
Action: Modifications Required
Effective Date: June 18, 2025
Project Status: Deferred - Modifications Required
Vote: Total = 7; For = 7; Opposed = 0; Abstained = 0;
Primary Reviewer: Denise Williams
Secondary Reviewer: Joel Chandlee

Discussion and Remarks:

BSL / ABSL / BSL-P: BSL-2

NIH Guidelines Section(s): III-D and III-F

New registration for research involving culture of marine bacteria and recombinant DNA.

Some trainings and SOPs need to be updated / provided (e.g., spill clean-up for large volume). Unclear if all isolates of *V. parahaemolyticus* would be considered non-pathogenic for humans, and if so, why would BSL-2 containment be necessary? Please clarify. BSC certification is out of date. Work at ABSL-2 was proposed; describe in more detail protocols employed to follow ABSL-2 restrictions. Alternatively, omit all reference to animal work that would require ABSL2 precautions until later when a protocol amendment can be submitted for approval. Note that IACUC approval would not be needed for invertebrate animals. Note antimicrobial resistance genes planned for introduction into *Vibrio* species. Include other bacteria to be targeted. Autoclave in clear autoclave bags if disposing to the trash and hand-carry out to the dumpster. What is meant by "novel substrate utilization?" Note that bleached items cannot be autoclaved. Disposable equipment should be placed in red bags and boxed up in biohazard boxes. Also, please indicated that "animals will be frozen and disposed of as Regulated Medical Waste following Appendix H of URI Biosafety Manual."

6 Revisions

No items

7 Renewals

7.1 [336295-16] IBC: Use of human primary cells, cell lines, gene delivery and COVID-19 Research Specimens

PI: Angela Slitt
Reference Number: BI1314-007
Submission Type: Continuing Review/Progress Report

Review Type: Full Committee Review

Action: Modifications Required
Effective Date: June 18, 2025
Project Status: Deferred - Modifications Required
Project Expiration: May 14, 2025
Vote: Total = 7; For = 7; Opposed = 0; Abstained = 0;
Primary Reviewer: Ruitang Deng
Secondary Reviewer: Connie Heird

Discussion and Remarks:

BSL / ABSL / BSL-P: BSL-1 and BSL-2

NIH Guidelines Section(s): TBD

5-yr renewal of registration for research involving human tissues and fluids, primary human cell cultures, and culture of established human and murine cell lines for protein and nucleic acid analyses.

This protocol is currently expired as of 5/14/2025. The title of the protocol needs to be revised to reflect accurately what is in the protocol (e.g., no COVID-19 samples are used). Please double check and update related IACUC and IRB protocols. Some personnel trainings need to be updated. What is the health status of the donors of the human samples? Please specify which "drugs or chemicals" will be used as treatments. Briefly comment on which procedures will be performed at each biosafety level (all manipulations of body fluids are recommended to be performed in the biosafety cabinet). Provide the date of the last BSC certification. HBV vaccine (or titer check) is available at Health Services. Many sections of the protocol are unclear / inaccurate / inconsistent; please review carefully and revise. Many SOPs need updates as well. Use of an N95 respirator requires medical clearance and fit testing. Clarify the workflow re: the use of sharps.

7.2 [1547931-6] Molecular Mechanisms of Aging and Neurodegeneration

PI: Jaime Ross, Ph.D.
Reference Number: BI1920-010
Submission Type: Continuing Review/Progress Report

Review Type: Full Committee Review
Action: Modifications Required
Effective Date: June 18, 2025
Project Status: Active
Project Expiration: July 7, 2025
Vote: Total = 7; For = 7; Opposed = 0; Abstained = 0;
Primary Reviewer: Joel Chandlee
Secondary Reviewer: Ruitang Deng

Discussion and Remarks:

BSL / ABSL / BSL-P: BSL-1 and BSL-2

NIH Guidelines Section(s): III-E and III-F

5-yr renewal of a registration for research involving recombinant DNA and cell culture.

Some personnel trainings and SOPs need to be updated. Please clarify what "ICE" stands for.
Provide brief background information about the uncommon cell lines: U2OS cells and C2C12 cells.
What is the objective of isolating genomic DNA? What is the function of TMCC proteins?

8 Amendments

No items

9 Other Submissions

No items

10 Adverse Events

No items

11 Other Business

No items

12 Office of Research Integrity Updates

12.1 IBC Policy updates

12.2 IBC new Word forms were implemented on June 1st

The updated forms were discussed and are effective to be used as of June 1, 2025. An email was sent to all the researchers.

13 New Protocols or Renewals Approved by Full Board or Expedited

13.1 [1546243-6] Disease management in aquatic organisms

PI:	Marta Gomez-Chiarri, PhD
Reference Number:	BI1920-008
Sponsor:	USDA and NOAA
Submission Type:	Continuing Review/Progress Report
Review Type:	Full Committee Review
Action:	Approved
Effective Date:	May 15, 2025
Project Status:	Active
Project Expiration:	February 18, 2030

13.2 [1524086-5] Surgical Cardioprotection through BKCa-dependent modulation of mitochondrial supercomplexes (IBC protocol)

PI: Richard Clements, PhD

Reference Number: BI1920-004
Sponsor: NIH
Submission Type: Continuing Review/Progress Report

Review Type: Full Committee Review
Action: Modifications Required
Effective Date: May 15, 2025
Project Status: Deferred - Modifications Required
Project Expiration: April 6, 2025

13.3 [2132101-3] Integrated engineering of whole plant water use efficiency in Sorghum and Setaria

PI: Albert Kausch, PhD
Reference Number: BI2324-004
Sponsor: DOE
Submission Type: Continuing Review/Progress Report

Review Type: Expedited Review
Action: Approved
Effective Date: June 12, 2025
Project Status: Active
Project Expiration: June 12, 2030

13.4 [1524086-6] Surgical Cardioprotection through BKCa-dependent modulation of mitochondrial supercomplexes (IBC protocol)

PI: Richard Clements, PhD
Reference Number: BI1920-004
Sponsor: NIH
Submission Type: Continuing Review/Progress Report

Review Type: Full Committee Review
Action: Approved
Effective Date: June 11, 2025
Project Status: Active
Project Expiration: April 6, 2030

14 Amendments Approved by Full Board or Expedited

No items

15 Administrative Approvals

No items

16 Terminations

No items

17 **Adjourn**

Vote: Total = 7; For = 7; Opposed = 0; Abstained = 0;

The meeting adjourned on June 18, 2025 at 12:09 PM.