

University of Rhode Island IBC

MEETING MINUTES

September 9, 2025

Zoom Meeting

The meeting was called to order on September 9, 2025 at 11:00 AM and a quorum was present.

ATTENDANCE

Voting Members Present:

Joel Chandlee
Ruitang Deng
Connie Heird
Marin Manuel
Alan Rothman

Non-Voting Attendees, Staff and Guests Present:

Heather McClary

Recording:

Heather McClary

ITEMS

1 Welcome and Opening Remarks

2 Next Meeting Date and General Announcements

2.1 Next meeting: October 15, 2025 at 10 AM 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

Committee discussed changes to minutes to reduce unnecessary information and streamline. Limit to summary of important points of discussion.

3.1 **June 18, 2025 minutes (tabled at last meeting)**

Review Type: Full Committee Review
Action: Approved
Effective Date: September 9, 2025
Vote: Total = 5; For = 5; Opposed = 0; Abstained = 0;

3.2 **July 16, 2025 minutes**

Review Type: Full Committee Review
Action: Approved
Effective Date: September 9, 2025
Vote: Total = 5; For = 5; Opposed = 0; Abstained = 0;

4 **Continuing Education**

No items

5 **New Studies**

5.1 **[2347704-1] IBC documents for human immortal cell culture work**

PI: Dave Townson
Reference Number: BI2526-002
Submission Type: New Project

Review Type: Full Committee Review
Action: Modifications Required
Effective Date: September 9, 2025
Project Status: Deferred - Modifications Required
Vote: Total = 5; For = 5; Opposed = 0; Abstained = 0;
Primary Reviewer: Joel Chandlee
Secondary Reviewer: Connie Heird

Discussion and Remarks:

BSL / ABSL / BSL-P: BSL-2

NIH Guidelines Section(s): N/A

Standard work with immortal human cell lines.

One line of cells carries HPV; have personnel been offered vaccination? PI has not provided sufficient information about individual cell lines. Unclear if this work is already underway without IBC oversight. Some training and SOPs need updating; personnel should complete chemo training.

Motion by JB to approve pending modifications.

5.2 **[2348879-1] Acoustofluidic-Driven Modular Organ-on-Chip System for Space Biology Research**

PI: Yang Lin, PhD
Reference Number: BI2526-003
Submission Type: New Project

Review Type: Full Committee Review
Action: Modifications Required
Effective Date: September 9, 2025
Project Status: Deferred - Modifications Required
Vote: Total = 5; For = 5; Opposed = 0; Abstained = 0;
Primary Reviewer: Marin Manuel
Secondary Reviewer: Ruitang Deng

Discussion and Remarks:

BSL / ABSL / BSL-P: BSL-2

NIH Guidelines Section(s): N/A

Using human cell lines to build organ chip devices.

PI describes appropriate use of biosafety cabinets. Sharps should be collected in a biowaste tote. Some training needs to be updated; personnel should complete nanomaterials training.

Motion by MM to approve pending modifications.

5.3 **[2349013-1] Female Energy Deficiency (fED) Project Follow-Up: 6-Month Outcomes of a Relative Energy Deficiency in Sport Education Program in Collegiate Female Athletes**

PI: Christie Ward-Ritacco
Reference Number: BI2526-004
Submission Type: New Project

Review Type: Full Committee Review
Action: Modifications Required
Effective Date: September 9, 2025
Project Status: Deferred - Modifications Required
Vote: Total = 5; For = 5; Opposed = 0; Abstained = 0;
Primary Reviewer: Joel Chandlee
Secondary Reviewer: Marin Manuel

Discussion and Remarks:

BSL / ABSL / BSL-P: BSL-2

NIH Guidelines Section(s): N/A

Drawing blood from cohort of female athletes.

Protocol is thorough and well-written. Emergency plan is good.

Motion to approve by JC.

5.4 [2352712-1] Evaluating the Behavior, Ecology, and Physiology of Canids

PI: Sarah Kienle, PhD
Reference Number: BI2526-005
Submission Type: New Project

Review Type: Full Committee Review
Action: Modifications Required
Effective Date: September 9, 2025
Project Status: Deferred - Modifications Required
Vote: Total = 5; For = 5; Opposed = 0; Abstained = 0;
Primary Reviewer: Alan Rothman
Secondary Reviewer: Connie Heird

Discussion and Remarks:

BSL / ABSL / BSL-P: BSL-2

NIH Guidelines Section(s): N/A

Researchers will receive wild canid samples to understand anatomy and physiology via dissection and measurement.

Necropsy SOP is detailed. Personnel will receive rabies prophylaxis. Risk assessment was thorough; researchers will not have information about health status of animals. Rabies risk is reduced (but not eliminated) due to exposure / freezing before necropsy. Need clarification about type of respirator used (N95 or KN95?), concentration of bleach, use of replaceable scalpel blades, and feasibility of performing necropsy in a BSC. Accompanying IACUC protocol was administratively approved.

Motion by AR to approve pending modifications.

5.5 [2352743-1] Comparing Anatomical and Physiological Adaptations of Marine Mammals

PI: Sarah Kienle, PhD
Reference Number: BI2526-006
Submission Type: New Project

Review Type: Full Committee Review
Action: Modifications Required
Effective Date: September 9, 2025
Project Status: Deferred - Modifications Required
Vote: Total = 5; For = 5; Opposed = 0; Abstained = 0;
Primary Reviewer: Connie Heird
Secondary Reviewer: Alan Rothman

Discussion and Remarks:

BSL / ABSL / BSL-P: BSL-2

NIH Guidelines Section(s): N/A

Studying the anatomy and physiology of marine mammals and how pressures impact behavior.

Researchers will obtain carcasses opportunistically. Protocol is well written and risk assessment is thorough. Some zoonotic bacteria are potentially present. Researchers will use enhanced PPE during bone sawing. Recommend use of solid-front gown instead of lab coat. Recommend replacement of bleach for necropsy table disinfection due to risk of damage to surface.

Motion by CH to approve pending modifications.

5.6 [2358282-1] SLEEPS 2: Studying Long-term Effects of Epigenetics and Pediatric Sleep

PI: Justin Parent, Ph.D.

Reference Number: BI2526-007

Sponsor: NIH

Submission Type: New Project

Review Type: Full Committee Review

Action: Modifications Required

Effective Date: September 9, 2025

Project Status: Deferred - Modifications Required

Vote: Total = 5; For = 5; Opposed = 0; Abstained = 0;

Primary Reviewer: Marin Manuel

Secondary Reviewer: Joel Chandlee

Discussion and Remarks:

BSL / ABSL / BSL-P: BSL-2

NIH Guidelines Section(s): N/A

Participants collecting blood samples from self and shipping to lab; lab will unpack and repack then freeze.

Very limited manipulation of human materials. Blood volume amount needs to be corrected. EtOH should not be sprayed inside the BSC. BSC certification date needed. PI should clarify if / how shipments are prepared for analysis and add more detail about research aims and procedures. Transport SOP needs to be tailored to project.

Motion by MM to approve pending modifications.

6 Revisions

No items

7 Renewals

7.1 [1621171-3] Combination targeted cancer therapy

PI: GONGQIN SUN, Ph.D.
Reference Number: BI1920-015
Submission Type: Continuing Review/Progress Report

Review Type: Full Committee Review
Action: Modifications Required
Effective Date: September 9, 2025
Project Status: Active
Project Expiration: July 14, 2025
Vote: Total = 5; For = 5; Opposed = 0; Abstained = 0;
Primary Reviewer: Ruitang Deng
Secondary Reviewer: Connie Heird

Discussion and Remarks:

BSL / ABSL / BSL-P: BSL-2

NIH Guidelines Section(s): N/A

Investigating cancer drugs in cell culture system and measuring viability via Western blot.

This is a simple use of human cell lines. PI should describe what drugs will be used at what concentration. Personnel need to complete chemo training course. Waste should be disposed as chemical not biological.

Motion by RD to approve pending modifications.

8 Amendments

8.1 [392166-17] Study effect of pH Low Insertion Peptides (pHLIPs) and their conjugates on cultured cells and tumors created by implanting of cancer cells in mice

PI: Yana Reshetnyak, PhD
Reference Number: BI12-10-009
Submission Type: Amendment/Modification

Review Type: Full Committee Review
Action: Modifications Required
Effective Date: September 9, 2025
Project Status: Active
Project Expiration: January 9, 2028
Vote: Total = 5; For = 5; Opposed = 0; Abstained = 0;
Primary Reviewer: Ruitang Deng
Secondary Reviewer: Connie Heird

Discussion and Remarks:

BSL / ABSL / BSL-P: BSL-2

NIH Guidelines Section(s): III-D

Investigating effect of low-pH insertion peptides on targeting cells using recombinant AAVs that are commercially obtained and express the mCherry protein.

This is a BSL-1 vector and expressed proteins are not a concern, but PI did not recognize that AAV can affect human cells. Need clarification about what exactly they're doing with AAVs, including any use in animals.

Motion by AR 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 IBC Member Training

HM will email committee members individually to remind about training

12.2 Please reply to Gwen about your specific area(s) of expertise

E.g., rDNA, animal containment, etc.

12.3 Seeking new community member

We have 3 volunteers for community members!

13 New Protocols or Renewals Approved by Full Board or Expedited

13.1 [545381-12] BI1314-003 Studying the Native Ticks of Rhode Island and their Associated Pathogens

PI: Thomas Mather, Ph.D

Reference Number: BI1314-003

Submission Type: Continuing Review/Progress Report

Review Type: Full Committee Review

Action: Approved

Effective Date: July 16, 2025

Project Status: Active
Project Expiration: April 1, 2030

13.2 **[2327187-2] 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: Approved
Effective Date: August 13, 2025
Project Status: Active
Project Expiration: August 13, 2030

13.3 **[2322719-2] 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: Approved
Effective Date: September 3, 2025
Project Status: Active
Project Expiration: September 3, 2030

13.4 **[2327735-2] 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: Approved
Effective Date: September 3, 2025
Project Status: Active
Project Expiration: September 3, 2030

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

15 **Administrative Approvals**

15.1 **[1983124-3] Microplastic toxicity studies using a gut-on-chip model**

PI: Yang Lin, Ph.D.

Reference Number: BI2223-002

Submission Type: Funding/Grant

Review Type: Administrative Review

Action: Acknowledged

Effective Date: August 13, 2025

Project Status: Active

Project Expiration: February 3, 2028

16 **Terminations**

17 **Adjourn**

Review Type: Full Committee Review

Action: Approved

Effective Date: September 9, 2025

Vote: Total = 5; For = 5; Opposed = 0; Abstained = 0;