

**Marquette University
Office of Research Compliance
Institutional Biosafety Committee**

MINUTES

IBC Member Roster: Austin Fritsch (Voting Contact), Dennis Daye (Member), Michael Schlappi (Plant Expert), Murray Blackmore (Chair, Animal Expert), Edward M. Blumenthal (Member, Vice Chair), M. Behnam Ghasemzadeh (Animal Expert), Jason M. Keaton (Biosafety Officer), Allison E. Reeme (Member), Jerome Donohoe (Non-Affiliated), Eli Colina (Non-Affiliated), Rebecca A. Seevers (Non-Affiliated)

Present: Austin Fritsch (Voting Contact), Dennis Daye (Member), Michael Schlappi (Plant Expert), Edward M. Blumenthal (Member, Vice Chair), Jason M. Keaton (Biosafety Officer), Allison E. Reeme (Member), Jerome Donohoe (Non-Affiliated), Eli Colina (Non-Affiliated), Rebecca A. Seevers (Non-Affiliated)

Absent: Murray Blackmore (Chair, Animal Expert), M. Behnam Ghasemzadeh (Animal Expert)

Guests: N/A

- I. **MEETING DATE:** February 13th, 2026
- II. **MEETING TYPE:** Remote
- III. **MEETING STATUS:** Open
- IV. **QUORUM:** Present
- V. **CALL TO ORDER:** 9:59 AM
- VI. **CONFLICT OF INTEREST:** No conflicts of interest were observed.
- VII. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**
 - A. **NIH Biosafety Modernization Initiative:** The committee was informed about the ongoing NIH initiative to strengthen biosafety oversight, the recent listening sessions, the opportunity for public comment, and the status of the NIH Guidelines for Research Involving Recombinant or Synthetic Nucleic Acid Molecules (NIH Guidelines.)
 - i. **Overview of NIH Initiative:** It was noted that the NIH is conducting an initiative focused on strengthening biosafety oversight, with several listening sessions already held and another scheduled. The NIH web page link for community feedback was sent electronically.
 - ii. **Community Input:** The importance of input from the biosafety network was emphasized. Committee members were encouraged to review the available NIH listening sessions recordings, and to take advantage of the opportunity to voice their opinions and concerns.

- iii. **Current Status:** It was noted that the NIH is still in the discovery phase, gathering feedback on what works and what needs improvement, and that there is uncertainty about whether the current NIH Guidelines will be retained, revised, or completely overhauled.

VIII. REVIEW MEETING MINUTES

- A. December 10, 2025 Meeting Minutes
 - i. Motion to approve the minutes as written:
 - Approve: 7, Deny: 0, Abstain: 2

IX. NEW PROTOCOL(S)

- A. N/A

X. THREE YEAR RENEWAL(S)

- A. N/A

XI. MODIFICATION(S)

- A. N/A

XII. DESIGNATED REVIEW(S)

- A. New protocol(s)
 - i. N/A
- B. Three year renewal(s)
 - i. N/A
- C. Modification(s)
 - i. Matthew Hearing, BISC; #4882: "Measuring and manipulating plasticity in cortico-striatal-limbic neural circuits."
 - ii. Nilanjan Lodh, MLS; #4853: "Effective Molecular Diagnosis and Determination of Prevalence of Malaria, Schistosomiasis, Hookworms, and Strongyloides stercoralis from Filtered Human Urine Samples"
 - iii. Lisa Petrella, BIOL; #4589: "Temperature-sensitive germline structures and temperature thresholds of fertility in Caenorhabditis nematodes"
 - iv. Michael Schlappi, BIOL; #4786: "Functional analysis of cold stress tolerance mechanisms in rice"
 - v. Paul Gasser, BISC; #4699: "Glioma cell lines for cancer research"
 - vi. Robert Wheeler, BISC; #4673: "Manipulation and measurement of dopamine signaling and striatal activity"
 - vii. Anita Manogaran, BIOL; #4525: "Understanding how co-chaperones influence protein aggregation"
 - viii. Anita Manogaran, BIOL; #4521: "Spatial and temporal mechanisms underlying aggregate formation"
 - ix. Tony Gamble, BISC; #5116: "Collaborative Research: EDGE FGT: DEVELOPMENT OF FUNCTIONAL GENETIC TOOLS IN GECKOS"
 - x. Emily Sontag, BIOL; #4466: "Protein homeostasis in health and disease"
 - xi. Anita Manogaran, BIOL; #4523: "BIOL 4102 Experimental Molecular Biology"

- xii.** Robert Peoples, BISC; #4804: "Development of NMDA receptor subunits with alcohol insensitivity but unaltered physiology as molecular tools"
- xiii.** Murray Blackmore, BISC; #4598: "Combinatorial Manipulation of Transcription Factors to Promote CNS Regeneration"
- xiv.** Deanna Arble, BIOL; #4570: "AAV into the brain or eye of mice"
- xv.** Matthew Hearing, BISC; #4882: "Measuring and manipulating plasticity in cortico-striatal-limbic neural circuits."
- xvi.** Marieke Gilmartin, BISC; #5036: "Neuromodulation of episodic memory systems in aversive learning and cognitive function"
- xvii.** Chelsea Cook, BIOL; #4605: "Exploring Neural Mechanisms with Optogenetics in Experimental Neurobiology"

XIII. TERMINATION(S)

A. N/A

XIV. ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

A. N/A

XV. TRAINING

A. N/A

XVI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

A. N/A

XVII. INSPECTIONS/ONGOING OVERSIGHT

A. N/A

XVIII. ADJOURN: 10:06 AM

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Compliance**