

**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), 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)

Absent: Michael Schlappi (Plant Expert)

Guests: N/A

- I. MEETING DATE:** March 10th, 2026
- II. MEETING TYPE:** Remote
- III. MEETING STATUS:** Open
- IV. QUORUM:** Present
- V. CALL TO ORDER:** 12:02 PM
- VI. CONFLICT OF INTEREST:** No conflicts of interest were observed.
- VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS:**
- VIII. REVIEW MEETING MINUTES**
 - A.** February 13th, 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. Lisa Petrella, BISC; #4589: "Temperature-sensitive germline structures and temperature thresholds of fertility in *Caenorhabditis* nematodes"
 - ii. Edward Blumenthal, BIOL; #4456: "Regulation of epithelial barrier formation in *Drosophila*"

XIII. TERMINATION(S)

- A. N/A

XIV. ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

- A. **Lab Access and Door Closure Policy:** The committee reviewed the collaborative lab access and door closure policy, addressing regulatory requirements, practical considerations, and stakeholder input from Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC), Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC), and Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S).
 - i. **Policy Rationale and Scope:** The committee was informed that policy was drafted to clarify expectations on access to spaces involving animals and IBC protocols. The policy is intended as a collaborative document among IACUC, IBC, and Environmental Health and Safety.
 - ii. **Policy Requirements:** The committee discussed the implications of a blanket policy versus specifying requirements for different biosafety levels. Concerns were raised about enforceability and compliance if the policy is too broad, with suggestions to focus on situations where controlled access is essential, such as BSL-2 labs and when vertebrate animals are present.
 - iii. **Clarification of Animal-Related Provisions:** It was requested that the policy be revised to specify that access should be controlled only when vertebrate animals are present in the room, rather than all animals.
 - iv. **Best Practices Versus Requirements:** The committee discussed the justifications for keeping lab doors open, agreed that the policy should be edited to distinguish between mandatory requirements and best practices. It was also stated that the rationale behind the best practices should be incorporated into the policy to provide greater clarity.
 - v. **Compliance Sources:** The committee requested the addition of a sources section, listing the regulatory documents used in the creation of the policy.
- B. **External Transportation of Biological Materials:** The committee discussed the modification of the IBC registration form, which consisted of including a section addressing external transportation of biological materials. The section prompts researchers to specify if materials will be shipped outside Marquette and to provide details such as responsible individuals, training, material description, packaging, destination, and permits.
 - i. **Location Specification and Oversight:** Committee members questioned the necessity of specifying each shipping location and whether the IBC should approve every destination, expressing concerns

about administrative burden and committee overreach, especially for minimally hazardous materials.

- ii. **Regulatory and Best Practice Considerations:** Committee members referenced relevant guidelines, including NIH Appendix H and federal shipping regulations, noting that while specific IBC approval may not be mandated, awareness of shipping activities and ensuring proper training and containment are important for compliance and biosecurity.
- iii. **Next Steps:** Committee members proposed revising the location prompt to reduce administrative burden, and developing a best practice document for shipping biological materials in collaboration with the EH&S and the Biosafety Officer to provide researchers with clear guidance on training and compliance.

XV. TRAINING

A. N/A

XVI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

A. N/A

XVII. INSPECTIONS/ONGOING OVERSIGHT

A. N/A

XVIII. ADJOURN: 12:38 PM



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