University of Delaware Biosafety Committee
Meeting Minutes- October 2, 2025 11:30am-1:30pm
Hybrid- In Person and Zoom Meeting

Present	Member
X	Dr. Jennifer Biddle, School of Marine Science and Public Policy
X	Dr. Erin Brannick, Animal and Food Sciences, Animal Expert, IBC Chair
X	Ms. Renee Brown, Research Office
X	Dr. Brandon Calitree, Environmental Health and Safety
X	Dr. Nicole Donofrio, Plant and Soil Sciences, Plant Expert
X	Ms. Michelle Ferguson, Biosafety Officer, Environmental Health and Safety
X	Ms. Michelle Hamilton, Community Member
X	Mr. Norm Henry, Community Member
	Dr. April Kloxin, Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering
	Dr. Anja Nohe, Biological Sciences
X	Dr. Mark Parcells, Animal and Food Sciences, Animal Expert
X	Ms. Margaret (Meg) Roth, School of Nursing
	Dr. Stephen Streatfield, Plant and Soil Sciences, Plant Expert
X	Ms. Heather Walters, Medical and Molecular Sciences
X	Dr. Neal Zondlo, Chemistry and Biochemistry

A quorum was met for this meeting.

Guests Present
Ms. Kayla Velazquez, Environmental Health and Safety
Dr. Hannah Lacey, Environmental Health and Safety

Call to Order

- Dr. Brannick called the meeting to order at 11:30am. Minutes from June 5, 2025 meeting were approved. (12 for/0 against)

Committee Review of Recombinant DNA Registrations

- The Committee reviewed the list of exempt category research. Ten protocols met this category (25-033, 25-034, 25-035, 25-036, 25-038, 25-040, 25-043, 25-044, 25-047, 25-048). The Committee voted unanimously in favor of acceptance.

- The non-exempt research was reviewed next. Seven experiments met this category. 25-037, 25-039, 25-041, 25-042, 25-045, 25-046, 25-049 were reviewed as indicated on the Review Forms beginning on page 3. Three protocols were conditionally approved pending additional information. 25-045, 25-046 both needed additional risk assessment and safety information. 25-049 needed to include information regarding PPE use and waste disposal. The remaining protocols were unanimously voted in favor of acceptance.

Incident Review

- The committee reviewed two incidents, I25-010, I25-011 that were deemed non-reportable according to the NIH Guidelines.

Program Summaries and Ongoing Oversight

The committee discussed updates within the select agent program, bloodborne pathogen program and biosafety program.

- Three new members have been approved to the select agent program. One member is pending approval. The University is preparing for an upcoming renewal inspection of the select agent program scheduled for mid-October.
- Discussion of registration compliance for the BBP and Biosafety programs, as well as training deficiencies were presented to the committee. Individuals have been contacted monthly regarding their outstanding items for each program.

Old Business

- The Committee discussed the NIH announcement regarding maximum transparency for IBC minutes and Rosters. Meeting minutes will be posted after committee approval on the Environmental Health and Safety website.
- UBC SOP revisions and updates were discussed regarding adding in information about NIH transparency for IBC. The Committee deferred finalization until the January 2026 meeting.
- There was no update regarding the DURC executive order from the White House.

New Business

- The Committee discussed notifying PIs regarding research descriptions for the public meeting minutes.

IBC Training

- The Committee discussed closing the gap with safety issues and inspections.

Public Comments

- There were no public comments for this meeting.

Adjournment

- The Committee moved to adjourn the meeting, unanimously approved at 12:23 p.m.
- The next meeting will be held on Thursday January 15th, at 11:30

Respectfully submitted,
Michelle Ferguson
Michelle Ferguson
Biosafety Officer

NIH *Guidelines*

Principal Investigator: _____Dr. Aimee Jaramillo-Lambert_____

Department: _Biological Sciences

Project Title: Analysis of Sterility and Embryonic Lethality in C. elegans

Registration Number: _____25-037 (3 year renewal of 22-029)_____

NIH Guidelines Section: III-D-4

Description of procedures provided: Yes __XX__ No _____
The microscopic worm *C. elegans* is used to study how chromosomes separate during meiosis and how eggs become activated after fertilization. By temporarily turning off specific genes using RNA interference (RNAi), the lab can observe how the loss of gene function affects these critical processes. This helps to better understand the molecular mechanisms that ensure accurate chromosome segregation and successful reproduction.

Containment Level: _____BSL-2_____

Appropriate facilities to be used: Yes __XX___ No _____

Procedures acceptable for containment: Yes ___XX____ No _____

Work practices acceptable for containment: Yes __XX_____ No _____

Training/ Experience of Personnel acceptable for work: Yes ___XX____ No ____

Comments: The committee agreed with the proposed procedures, work practices and containment. Lab members listed on this protocol have been properly trained with techniques. No concerns were brought up.

These items have been reviewed by the University Biosafety Committee and the committee has voted **__XX_ For** _____ Against approval of this project on this date. (13 for/0 against)
Experiments covered by this protocol can now be initiated.

UBC Representative: _____*Michelle L Ferguson*_____

Date: _____10/2/25_____

University Biosafety Committee Review Form
For Recombinant DNA Experiments Covered by the
NIH *Guidelines*

Principal Investigator: _____Dr. Joohyun Lim_____

Department: _Biological Sciences

Project Title: Gene Therapy in Preclinical Models of Temporomandibular Joint Disorders

Registration Number: _____25-039 (new protocol)____

NIH Guidelines Section: III-D-4; III-E-1

Description of procedures provided: Yes __XX__ No _____
The lab will examine AAV serotypes and its efficacy in unique regions of in and surrounding the temporomandibular joint and other musculoskeletal tissues. Further, the lab will use AAV-mediated delivery of genes, RNAi, and/or other oligos to discover non-invasive therapies to treat musculoskeletal disorders.

Containment Level: _____BSL-2_____

Appropriate facilities to be used: Yes __XX___ No _____

Procedures acceptable for containment: Yes ___XX____ No _____

Work practices acceptable for containment: Yes __XX_____ No _____

Training/ Experience of Personnel acceptable for work: Yes ___XX____ No ____

Comments: The committee agreed with the proposed procedures, work practices and containment. Lab members listed on this protocol have been properly trained with techniques. No concerns were brought up.

These items have been reviewed by the University Biosafety Committee and the committee has voted **__XX_ For** _____ Against approval of this project on this date. (13 for/0 against)
Experiments covered by this protocol can now be initiated.

UBC Representative: _____*Michelle L Ferguson*_____

Date: _____10/2/25_____

University Biosafety Committee Review Form
For Recombinant DNA Experiments Covered by the
NIH *Guidelines*

Principal Investigator: _____Dr. Jung-Youn Lee_____

Department: _Plant and Soil Sciences

Project Title: Role of Plasmodesmata in Plant Biology

Registration Number: _____25-041 (3 year renewal of 22-012)____

NIH Guidelines Section: III-E-3

Description of procedures provided: Yes __XX__ No _____
The lab is researching molecular mechanisms as to how plant cell communication occurs through plasmodesmata and their role in plant physiology and development. rDNA-involving works performed are basic and common practices in nature. Routine DNA cloning of Arabidopsis- or Nicotiana benthamiana derived genes will be used to test their function in Arabidopsis or Nicotiana benthamiana via agro- or biolistic DNA delivery-mediated methods or by producing stable transformants.

Containment Level: _____BSL-2_____

Appropriate facilities to be used: Yes __XX___ No _____

Procedures acceptable for containment: Yes ___XX____ No _____

Work practices acceptable for containment: Yes __XX_____ No _____

Training/ Experience of Personnel acceptable for work: Yes ___XX____ No ____

Comments: The committee agreed with the proposed procedures, work practices and containment. Lab members listed on this protocol have been properly trained with techniques. No concerns were brought up.

These items have been reviewed by the University Biosafety Committee and the committee has voted **__XX_ For** _____ Against approval of this project on this date. (13 for/0 against)
Experiments covered by this protocol can now be initiated.

UBC Representative: _____*Michelle L Ferguson*_____

Date: _____10/2/25_____

University Biosafety Committee Review Form
For Recombinant DNA Experiments Covered by the
NIH *Guidelines*

Principal Investigator: _____Dr. M. Ramona Neunuebel_____

Department: _Biological Sciences

Project Title: Molecular Mechanisms of Infection by L. pneumophila

Registration Number: _____25-042 (3 year renewal of 21-062)____

NIH Guidelines Section: III-D-1; III-D-2

Description of procedures provided: Yes __XX__ No _____
The research group is focused on understanding the molecular mechanisms that underlie infection by the intracellular bacterial pathogen *Legionella pneumophila*, the etiological of Legionnaires" disease a severe type of pneumonia. The lab grow this bacterium in albumin yeast extract (AYE) broth or modified charcoal yeast extract agar (CYE), both optimized for growth of *L. pneumophila* at 37^{o}C. These cultures are used to track growth rates of wild type and mutant strains of *L. pneumophila*, as well as for cell lysis to extract proteins or perform biochemical assays.

Containment Level: _____BSL-2_____

Appropriate facilities to be used: Yes __XX___ No _____

Procedures acceptable for containment: Yes ___XX____ No _____

Work practices acceptable for containment: Yes __XX_____ No _____

Training/ Experience of Personnel acceptable for work: Yes ___XX____ No ____

Comments: The committee agreed with the proposed procedures, work practices and containment. Lab members listed on this protocol have been properly trained with techniques. No concerns were brought up.

These items have been reviewed by the University Biosafety Committee and the committee has voted **__XX_ For** _____ Against approval of this project on this date. (13 for/0 against)
Experiments covered by this protocol can now be initiated.

UBC Representative: _____*Michelle L Ferguson*_____

Date: _____10/2/25_____

University Biosafety Committee Review Form
For Recombinant DNA Experiments Covered by the
NIH *Guidelines*

Principal Investigator: _____Dr. Kelvin Lee_____

Department: _NIIMBL

Project Title: Bioprocessing Testbed

Registration Number: _____25-045 (new protocol)____

NIH Guidelines Section: III-D-6

Description of procedures provided: Yes __XX__ No _____
The project is to grow mammalian cells at a scale of up to 50L. No recombinant work is involved in the project.

Containment Level: _____BSL-2_____

Appropriate facilities to be used: Yes __XX___ No _____

Procedures acceptable for containment: Yes ___XX____ No _____

Work practices acceptable for containment: Yes __XX_____ No _____

Training/ Experience of Personnel acceptable for work: Yes ___XX____ No ____

Comments: The committee conditionally approved the protocol, pending additional information regarding organisms, risk assessment on spills, PPE.

Protocols were sent to UBC on 10/9 and fully approved on 10/21/25

These items have been reviewed by the University Biosafety Committee and the committee has voted _X__ **For** _____ Against approval of this project on this date. (13 for/0 against)
Experiments covered by this protocol can now be initiated.

UBC Representative: _____*Michelle L Ferguson*_____

Date: _____10/21/25_____

University Biosafety Committee Review Form
For Recombinant DNA Experiments Covered by the
NIH *Guidelines*

Principal Investigator: _____Dr. Kelvin Lee_____

Department: _NIIMBL

Project Title: GMP Plasmid Production

Registration Number: _____25-046 (new protocol)____

NIH Guidelines Section: III-D-6

Description of procedures provided: Yes __XX__ No _____
The project is to non-pathogenic E.coli for plasmid production at a scale of up to 50L. No recombinant work is involved in the project.

Containment Level: _____BSL-2_____

Appropriate facilities to be used: Yes __XX___ No _____

Procedures acceptable for containment: Yes ___XX____ No _____

Work practices acceptable for containment: Yes __XX_____ No _____

Training/ Experience of Personnel acceptable for work: Yes ___XX____ No ____

Comments: The committee conditionally approved the protocol, pending additional information regarding organisms, risk assessment on spills, PPE.

Protocols were sent to UBC on 10/9 and fully approved on 10/21/25

These items have been reviewed by the University Biosafety Committee and the committee has voted _X__ **For** _____ Against approval of this project on this date. (13 for/0 against)
Experiments covered by this protocol can now be initiated.

UBC Representative: _____*Michelle L Ferguson*_____

Date: _____10/21/25_____

University Biosafety Committee Review Form
For Recombinant DNA Experiments Covered by the
NIH *Guidelines*

Principal Investigator: _____Dr. Aditya Kunjapur_____

Department: _Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering

Project Title: Phenotyping growth of vaginal microbial isolates in different nutrient conditions

Registration Number: _____25-049 (new protocol)____

NIH Guidelines Section: III-D-1

Description of procedures provided: Yes __XX__ No _____
The goal of this work is to measure the growth of microbial isolates
from the vaginal microbial communities, testing different media conditions.

Containment Level: _____BSL-2_____

Appropriate facilities to be used: Yes __XX___ No _____

Procedures acceptable for containment: Yes ___XX____ No _____

Work practices acceptable for containment: Yes __XX_____ No _____

Training/ Experience of Personnel acceptable for work: Yes ___XX____ No ____

Comments: The committee conditionally approved the protocol, pending additional information regarding PPE and safety protocols.

Protocols were sent to UBC on 10/3 and fully approved on 10/3/25

These items have been reviewed by the University Biosafety Committee and the committee has voted _X__ **For** _____ Against approval of this project on this date. (13 for/0 against)
Experiments covered by this protocol can now be initiated.

UBC Representative: _____*Michelle L Ferguson*_____

Date: _____10/3/25_____