University of Delaware Biosafety Committee
Meeting Minutes- January 15, 2026 11:30am-1:30pm
Hybrid- In Person and Zoom Meeting

Present	Member
	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
	Dr. Nicole Donofrio, Plant and Soil Sciences, Plant Expert
X	Ms. Michelle Ferguson, Biosafety Officer, Environmental Health and Safety
	Ms. Michelle Hamilton, Community Member
	Mr. Norm Henry, Community Member
X	Dr. Brian Kwee, Biomedical Engineering
	Dr. Anja Nohe, Biological Sciences
X	Dr. Mark Parcells, Animal and Food Sciences, Animal Expert
X	Ms. Margaret (Meg) Roth, School of Nursing
X	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. Diana LaPier, Environmental Health and Safety

Call to Order
- Dr. Brannick called the meeting to order at 11:30am. Minutes from October 2, 2025 meeting were approved. (12 for/0 against)

Committee Review of Recombinant DNA Registrations
- The Committee reviewed the list of exempt category research. Nine protocols met this category (25-050, 25-052, 26-001, 26-002, 26-003, 26-004, 26-005, 26-006, 26-008). The Committee voted unanimously in favor of acceptance.

- The non-exempt research was reviewed next. Three experiments met this category. 25-051, 25-053, and 26-007 were reviewed as indicated on the Review Forms beginning on page 3. The protocols were unanimously voted in favor of acceptance.

Incident Review
- There were no incidents to review.

Program Summaries and Ongoing Oversight

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

- One new member has been approved to the select agent program. The University had its renewal inspection of the select agent program in January 13-14 (delayed due to the government shutdown in fall 2025)
- 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

- UBC SOP revisions and updates were discussed regarding adding in information about NIH transparency for IBC. The Committee deferred finalization until the April 2026 meeting.
- There was no update regarding the DURC executive order from the White House.
- The link to NIH listening sessions for maximizing biosafety and security was shared with members.

New Business

- The Committee discussed notifying PIs regarding research descriptions for the public meeting minutes.
- The Committee reviewed the list of biological registrations.
- Discussions on recruiting new members to UBC.

IBC Training

- The Committee discussed escalation for delinquent training.

Public Comments

- There were no public comments for this meeting.

Adjournment

- The Committee moved to adjourn the meeting, unanimously approved at 12:29 p.m.
- The next meeting will be held on Wednesday April 1st, at 11:30

Respectfully submitted,
Michelle Ferguson
Michelle Ferguson
Biosafety Officer

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

Principal Investigator: _____Dr. Mark Blenner_____

Department: _Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering

Project Title: Heterologous Enzyme Secretion from Salmonella enterica

Registration Number: _____25-051 (new protocol)

NIH Guidelines Section: III-D-1

Description of procedures provided: Yes __XX__ No _____
This project uses Salmonella enterica to secrete proteins that may be important in plastic deconstruction pathways. The establishment of a bacterial expression system that make proteins and secrete them from cells will enable high throughput screening of enzyme function without purification.

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. (10 for/0 against)
Experiments covered by this protocol can now be initiated.

UBC Representative: _____*Michelle L Ferguson*_____

Date: _____1/15/26_____

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

Principal Investigator: _____Dr. Harsh Bais_____

Department: _Plant and Soil Sciences

Project Title: YtnP Lactonase Heterologous Expression

Registration Number: _____25-053 (3 year renewal of 22-035)____

NIH Guidelines Section: III-E-3

Description of procedures provided: Yes __XX__ No _____
The purpose of this research project is to study the interaction of the plant growth promoting (PGPR) Gram positive bacteria *Bacillus subtilis* strain UD1022 with plant roots and other PGPR bacteria. Promoter expression markers will be used in UD1022 to observe changes in key genes associated with sporulation, biofilm formation, and surfactin production. The fluorescent marker protein YFP (yellow fluorescent protein) will be fused with the promoters of these key genes to observe timing and response to co-culture *in vitro* and *in vivo* with plant root compounds from *Medicago* spp. and other species of bacteria, specifically *Sinorhizobium* spp.

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: _____1/15/26_____

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

Principal Investigator: _____Dr. Mark Parcells_____

Department: Animal and Food Sciences

Project Title: Characterization of Recombinant Marek's Disease Viruses

Registration Number: _____26-007 (3 year renewal of 22-036)____

NIH Guidelines Section: III-E-3

Description of procedures provided: Yes __XX__ No _____
This protocol deals with the construction of bacterial artificial chromosome (BAC)-based Marek's disease viruses and their characterization in chickens either to evaluate changes in pathogenesis associated with particular gene mutations, or to evaluate their efficacy as vaccine candidates. MDV is a risk group 1 pathogen, as it does not affect mammals, nor does it normally replicate in mammalian cells. The mutations introduced into the MDV oncogene (*meq*) of BAC-based recombinant MDVs have been identified initially in MDV field strains. Similarly, a mutation in glycoprotein L (gL) has been found to be common to all field strains of MDV isolated from DE, MD, NC, PA and VA since the early 2000s. Our one goal, therefore, is to put specific mutations (in either the *meq* or gL genes) into a common genetic background strain (RB-1B, a highly virulent and lymphomagenic strain) to evaluate changes in virus replication, tumor incidence and composition, and the ability of the recombinants to overcome vaccine- induced protection.
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: _____1/15/26_____