Illinois State University

Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) Meeting Minutes

Date: 1/15/2026

Location: JH 228 & Zoom

Start time: 1:08 p.m. **End time:** 2:01 p.m.

Members Present: Adam McCrary, Harmony Kiley, Tom Hammond, Viktor Kirik, Kathy Spence, Wolfgang Stein

Members Absent: Riley Francis, Tom Anderson, Amy Gilliland

Guests Present: None

Staff Present: Ashley Katz

I. Chair Reminder- Declare Conflicts of Interest for Protocol Review

a. None

II. Review of 11/20/2025 IBC Meeting Minutes

a. Motioned to approve minutes.

Motion: AM motioned to approve, WS seconds

For: 6; **Against:** 0; **Abstain:** 0

III. Prior Business

a. NIH IBC Self-Assessment

i. Self-Assessment has been finalized, and the draft summary document was reviewed. High priority and medium priority items were noted. This document will be used for revising the ISU Biosafety Manual.

IV. Protocol Review

a. **Full Committee Review- New Applications**

i.

IBC Protocol #	PI	Title	BSL	Risk Group	Building
IBC-2026-0000039	Jon Friesen	Characterization of glycerol kinase from Sulfolobus islandicus	1	1	SLB

Project Overview:

Sulfolobus islandicus is a thermophilic archaea found in the hot springs of Yellowstone National Park. The focus of this research is the enzyme glycerol kinase from Sulfolobus islandicus recombinantly expressed in a K-12 based laboratory strain of E. coli.

The gene encoding Sulfolobus islandicus glycerol kinase has been previously amplified from genomic DNA and the encoded protein produced in a K-12 based laboratory strain of E. coli. The proposed work involves purification of the enzyme and assessment of the ability of the enzymes to catalyze chemical reactions.

Risk Assessment/Discussion:

Low

Training:

CITI Training certificates were included in the protocol.

NIH Guidelines Section:

PI did not select one. Requested to select III-E.

Occupational Health Representative review:
This protocol does not require any medical screening. Appropriate controls are in place to mitigate injuries and lab-acquired infections.

Additional Comments:

- NIH Guidelines: Non-pathogenic E. coli lab strain designated as BL21 is not exempt from the NIH Guidelines and NIH Guidelines III-E apply, possibly III-E1? Check box III-E1
- Vectors/Plasmids: Remove question marks that are caused by copy/paste
- Vectors/Plasmids: Change derived from E. coli K-12 strain to E. Coli B strain
- Infectious Agents/Microorganisms: Change derived from E. coli K-12 strain to E. Coli B strain
- Infectious Agents/Microorganisms: Remove question marks that are caused by copy/paste
- Facilities: The safety section indicates sharps are not used for this protocol. If so, uncheck sharps container
- Transport/Shipping: Check yes for transporting within the building which includes utilization of the autoclave in SLB 327.
- Personnel: Check Yes for individual being compensated and emergency contact.
- Safety: Change derived from E. coli K-12 strain to E. Coli B strain
- Safety: Replace "?" (from copy and paste) also located in containment, reusable equipment, and liquid waste treatment sections.
- Safety: Inventory control, include with the exception of autoclaving in SLB 327
- Safety: The facilities section indicates the use of sharps containers. If sharps containers are used, indicate in this section.
- Safety: For routes of exposure, I would suggest ingestion, inhalation, and skin or mucous membrane exposure. Fecal-oral route (ingestion from contaminated hands/surfaces), direct contact with mucous membranes (eyes, nose, mouth), and potentially through aerosol inhalation, especially during procedures like vortexing or centrifugation that create droplets.
- Safety: Reusable Equipment section; Change contact time for bleach solution from 15 minutes to 30 minutes.
- Accidental Spill/Splash Response: Remove question marks that are caused by copy/paste.
- Accidental Spill/Splash Response: Outside Biosafety Cabinet; This section is intended to explain how spills in the lab will be addressed.

Motion: Approve pending minor modifications listed above, with IBC chair review and confirmation. TH motioned to approve, AM seconds	For: 6	Recuse: 0	Against: 0	Abstain: 0	Absent: 3

b. **Designated Member Review**
    i. IBC-2025-0000033 – Gene editing to investigate candidate genes involved in plant traits and metabolism – Ryan Patrick
        1. IBC Chair was able to approve amendment due to minor amendment.
c. **Member Review- Upcoming for February Full Committee Review**
    i. Dahl 01B-2025

ii. Kirik 02B-2023
iii. Edwards IBC-2026-0000040
1. Sending back to PI for completion of CITI Training

V. New Business

a. SLB dock biohazardous waste freezer
i. Utilized by Suzanne Nolan and Kyle Floyd; creating tissues and carcasses that must be managed as pathological red bag waste due to injection of plasmids. Freezer will be locked, and waste will be taken by contractor Med-Ex.
b. Update to Biosafety Website - NIH-OSP Investigator Responsibilities Under NIH Guidelines

VI. Review of Incidents

a. Clean mouse bite from Del-Barco Trillo lab. No medical attention and incident has been properly documented.

VII. Inspections/Ongoing Oversight

a. Six labs in SLB were inspected and the results of the inspection were reported to PIs, Biology Director, and IBC Chair.
b. Scheduled for Monday, February 9th from 2:00 pm - 4:30 pm

VIII. IBC Training

a. None

IX. Public Comments

a. None

X. Open Discussion

a. Ben Sadd is acting Biology Director for this semester. Leaving emergency contact sheets for now since this is a temporary move. Rachel is still on campus and can forward issues to Ben.
b. NIH Oversight & Modernization Initiative: Midwest Region 3 Virtual Listening/Comment Session with NIH
i. Key Themes from Biosafety Professional Feedback from public hearing 1/15/26:
1. Risk-Based Approach: Shift from broad mandates to policies based on actual risk, using Risk Group (RG) classifications and BMBL (Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories) principles.
2. Empower Local IBCs: Strengthen Institutional Biosafety Committees (IBCs) to handle primary review for most research, reserving direct NIH oversight for the most complex or high-risk work.
3. Harmonization & Clarity: Reduce federal overlap by coordinating with other agencies (like CDC, FDA, USDA) and providing clear guidance on what requires local vs. federal review.
4. Broaden Scope Beyond rDNA: Extend oversight to new technologies, synthetic biology, gene editing, mRNA, prions, toxins, and infectious wild-type agents, as science evolves.
5. Data-Driven Updates: Incorporate real-world safety data and evolving scientific understanding for regular, relevant policy revisions.

6. Focus on High-Risk Agents: Clearly define oversight for agents like RG3/4 pathogens, certain toxins, and research with high potential for adverse outcomes.

XI. Next Scheduled Meeting Date

a. Scheduled for Thursday, February 19th 1:00-2:30 p.m.

b. JH 228 and Zoom

XII. Adjournment

a. The Chair (TH) moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:01 p.m.