

Illinois State University
Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) Meeting Minutes

Date: 7/21/2026

Location: Zoom

Start time: 9:02 a.m. **End time:** 9:31 a.m.

Members Present: Tom Hammond, Harmony Kiley, Suzanne Nolan, Amy Gilliland, Kathy Spence

Members Absent: Viktor Kirik, Tom Anderson, Riley Francis, Adam McCrary

Guests Present: None

Staff Present: Jessica Lowe

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

a. None

II. Review of 5/21/26 & 5/22/26 IBC Meeting Minutes

a. Tabled

III. Prior Business

a. Tabled

IV. Protocol Review

a. Full Committee Review- New Applications

i. None

b. Full Committee Review- Amendments

i.

IBC Protocol #	PI	Title	BSL	Risk Group	Building
IBC-2026-0000009	Kara Andres	Analysis of environmental DNA and fish microbiomes	1	1	SLB

Project Overview:

The research in my lab integrates fieldwork, lab experiments, and molecular tools to better understand ecological dynamics and conservation biology in various environments. Proposed experiments include:

1. Environmental DNA (eDNA) from water and soil: We will collect environmental samples from various natural environments (water and soil) to isolate and amplify the DNA contained within. Laboratory techniques include DNA extraction, (q)PCR, and library preparation for next-generation sequencing. Recombinant DNA molecules will be constructed for next generation sequencing (as part of library preparation), but these molecules will not be intentionally introduced into live organisms for propagation. Environmental samples may contain potentially pathogenic organisms, but these will not be targeted in our work. In addition to field sampling, this project will include sampling water from tanks containing laboratory-reared organisms (e.g., fish and mussels) held in the department's aquatic facility.
2. Diet and microbiome experiments: We will conduct experiments to assess the diet and gut/skin microbiome of various fish species, particularly invasive species. This research will involve sampling intestinal/fecal material from wild organisms (i.e., fish) in natural habitats or captive rearing facilities such as hatcheries or aquariums. This project may include sampling the microbiomes of laboratory-reared organisms held in the department's aquatic facility. Once collected, organisms will be dissected in the lab to extract gut contents for further analysis.

3. DNA extraction from tissue samples: We will conduct genetic experiments on wild organisms by assessing DNA extracted from tissue samples. Organisms will be sampled from the wild and DNA tissue samples (e.g., fin clips) will be extracted and amplified using similar techniques as described above.

Risk Assessment/Discussion:

Low

Training:

CITI Training certificates were included in the protocol.

NIH Guidelines Section:

Work subject to NIH Guidelines.

Occupational Health Representative Review:

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

Reason for Amendment:

Addition of aquarium research to protocol.

Additional Comments:

- All on protocol must take “NIH rDNA Guidelines” CITI training
- Options- Select “yes” for recombinant and synthetic nucleic acid molecules
- Personnel- Update all personnels selected activities that will be performed by the research assistants
- Whole Animal Work- Please describe how you will dispose of the mussels

Motion: Approve pending minor modifications listed above, with IBC chair review and confirmation. KS motioned to approve, AM seconds	For: 5	Recuse:0	Against: 0	Abstain: 0	Absent: 4
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c. Designated Member Review- Amendments

- i. None

d. Member Review- Upcoming for August Full Committee Review

- i. Bae IBC-2026-0000057
1. Ready for member review
- ii. Calderon 01B-2023 (IBC-2026-0000045)
1. Still awaiting completion of training
- iii. Sadd IBC-2025-0000025
1. New protocol; Still awaiting revisions
- iv. Gatto 12B-2022 (IBC-2025-0000030)
1. Inactive; Still awaiting revisions

V. New Business

- a. Tabled

- ~~b. Suzanne Nolan – Schedule onboarding for Cayuse and IBC orientation.~~
- ~~c. Biosafety Manual – Updates needed including protocol administration.~~
- ~~d. Discuss meeting schedule~~

VI. Review of Incidents

- a. None

VII. Inspections/Ongoing Oversight

- a. Tabled

VIII. IBC Training

- a. None

IX. Public Comments

- a. None

X. Open Discussion

- a. None

XI. Next Scheduled Meeting Date

- a. Tabled

XII. Adjournment

- a. AM moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:31 a.m. TH seconded.