

**Marquette University
Office of Research Compliance
Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC)**

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), Alicja Czyz (Non-Voting Member)

Present: Austin Fritsch (Voting Contact), Michael Schlappi (Plant Expert), Murray Blackmore (Chair, Animal Expert), M. Behnam Ghasemzadeh (Animal Expert), Allison E. Reeme (Member), Rebecca A. Seevers (Non-Affiliated), Alicja Czyz (Non-Voting Member)

Absent: Dennis Daye (Member), Edward M. Blumenthal (Member, Vice Chair), Jason M. Keaton (Biosafety Officer), Jerome Donohoe (Non-Affiliated), Eli Colina (Non-Affiliated)

Guests: Krassimira Hristova

- I. MEETING DATE:** June 19th, 2026
- II. MEETING TYPE:** In-Person
- III. MEETING STATUS:** Open
- IV. QUORUM:** Present
- V. CALL TO ORDER:** 10:05 AM
- VI. CONFLICT OF INTEREST:** N/A
- VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS**
 - A.** N/A
- VIII. REVIEW MEETING MINUTES**
 - A.** April 15, 2026 Meeting Minutes
 - i.** Motion to approve the minutes as written:
 - Approve: 4, Deny: 0, Abstain: 2
 - B.** May 19, 2026 Meeting Minutes
 - i.** Motion to approve the minutes as written:
 - Approve: 5, Deny: 0, Abstain: 1
- IX. NEW REGISTRATION(S)**
 - A.** N/A
- X. THREE YEAR RENEWAL(S)**

- A. Krassimira Hristova, BIOL; #5396: "Phage treatment and disinfection of microbial biofilms"
- i. **Project Overview:** The goal of the project is to evaluate the efficacy of combining a chemical disinfectant (benzalkonium chloride) and bacteriophages to eradicate single- and multi-species biofilms. The registration involves work with four microorganisms (*Pseudomonas aeruginosa* PAO1, *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Acinetobacter baumannii*, and *Candida albicans*) which are known to cause infection in humans, as well as two bacteriophages (*DMS3virto*, *CMS1*) used to target *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* biofilms. While the bacteriophages utilized in this study are classified as Risk Group 1 (RG1) agents due to their inability to infect and replicate within animal cells, all procedures will be performed at Biosafety Level 2 (BSL-2) containment due to the required use and cultivation of the RG2 host organism (*Staphylococcus aureus*) for bacteriophage propagation and experimentation.
 - ii. **Training Verification:** The training of the listed personnel was reviewed by the committee. It was noted that although all listed individuals completed the initial required biosafety 101 training, some of the completed modules have expired and must be re-taken prior to registration approval.
 - iii. **Applicable section(s) of the NIH Guidelines:** The committee determined that the registration is exempt from the NIH Guidelines, but must be reviewed by the IBC due to the use of microorganisms per Marquette University policies and procedures.
 - iv. **Discussion:**
 - **Spill Procedures:** Committee members discussed placement, clarity, and training related to spill procedures described in the registration form
 - **Placement of Spill Procedures:** The group debated where spill procedures should be documented within the registration, ultimately deciding to consolidate all spill response procedures into the "Exposure/Release Procedures" section for clarity and ease of reference.
 - **Clarification and Unification of Procedures:** Committee members requested clarification to define what constitutes a small versus large spill.
 - **Spill Response Training:** The PI confirmed that all lab members receive lab-specific training on spill responses during lab-specific training, including practical demonstrations, with documentation and sign-off required for all members.

- **Agent Characteristics and Safety:** The group reviewed agent characteristics, including virulence, pathogenicity, and environmental stability, referencing external biosafety resources.
 - **Environmental Stability:** It was noted that although some of the utilized pathogens can remain stable for months in the environment, the proposed handling and decontamination practices are appropriate for the utilized agents.
 - **Virulence and Pathogenicity:** The committee was informed that although the utilized bacteriophages are incapable of infecting animal cells, the four utilized microorganisms are known to cause disease in humans, with greater virulence among those that are immunocompromised.
- **Routes of Exposure:** The committee discussed potential routes of exposure associated with the pathogens used in this registration. It was noted that accidental spills resulting in dermal exposure represent the primary occupational risk. The committee further noted that this risk is mitigated through the handling of small working volumes, and adherence to BSL-2 containment practices, including appropriate personal protective equipment and established spill response procedures.
- **Manipulation Plan and Procedure Clarification:** The committee noted discrepancies between the written registration and verbal descriptions of laboratory procedures, and requested an update of the registration so that it accurately reflects actual practices, including sample volumes.

v. **Required Changes**

- **“People” Section**
 - Ensure that all required training modules are within-date for all listed individuals.
 - Specify that lab members are trained in the management of spills during lab-specific training.
- **“Project Details” Section**
 - Ensure that the research procedures described align with the current practices.
 - Remove highlights and strikethrough text throughout the registration.
 - Specify the volume range of the materials that will be utilized.

- Ensure that all spill response information is consolidated and relocated to the “Exposure/Release Procedures” subsection.
- Remove mentions of large spill procedures, since all possible spills associated with the registration qualify as small spills.

vi. Motion to conditionally approved the registration, subject to revision by the designated reviewer:

- Approve: 6, Deny: 0, Abstain: 0

XI. MODIFICATION(S)

A. N/A

XII. DESIGNATED REVIEW(S)

A. New registration(s)

i. N/A

B. Three year renewal(s)

i. N/A

C. Modification(s)

i. Marieke Gilmartin, BISC; #5036: "Neuromodulation of episodic memory systems in aversive learning and cognitive function"

XIII. TERMINATION(S)

A. N/A

XIV. ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

A. **Occupational Health and Safety Program Discussion:** The committee was informed about ongoing discussions with the occupational health coordinator regarding the development of an occupational health and safety program for IBC-covered registrations, particularly for registrations involving bacteria and potential risks to students and staff.

i. **Current Program Status:** It was explained that there is currently no formal occupational health and safety program for individuals working on IBC-covered registrations, but that a document to address risks related to IBC-related work is being considered.

ii. **Planned Questionnaire Implementation:** The committee discussed the possibility of implementing basic health questionnaires for those working on IBC registrations, with the aim of identifying and mitigating risks.

iii. **Committee Notification and Next Steps:** It was noted that that discussions with the occupational health coordinator and relevant departments would continue over the summer, and that the committee will be kept informed of progress and any resulting changes.

B. **Animal Facility Capacity and Usage Update:** The committee was provided with an update on animal facility usage, noting a decrease in total animal numbers

over the past three years, current capacity levels, and the types of animals housed.

- i. **Current and Historical Capacity:** The facility is currently at about 40% capacity, with a decrease in total animal numbers compared to three years ago, but a slight increase from the previous year.

Animal Types and Room Utilization: The facility houses mice, rats, lizards, snakes, hamsters, frogs, and crayfish, with some rooms underutilized and others, such as mouse rooms, nearing full capacity.

XV. TRAINING

A. N/A

XVI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

A. N/A

XVII. INSPECTIONS/ONGOING OVERSIGHT

A. N/A

XVIII. ADJOURN 10:53 AM



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