DePaul University
Institutional Biosafety Committee
Draft Meeting minutes
August 25, 2025
Zoom Videoconference:

Members Present	Justin Maresh (Chair)	David George (Vice-Chair)	Janine Kirin
	Katie Abma	Nicolette Zielinski-Mozny	Jingjing Kipp
Members Absent	Brian Henson (alternate to Kathleen Abma)	Jeremie Fant	Rima Barkauskas
Ex-Officio Advisors	Daniela Stan Raicu*	Lauren Miller	Melodie Fox
Visitors			

*Indicates not present

The August 25, 2025 meeting of the DePaul IBC for the 2025-2026 academic year began at 9:06 a.m.with a quorum present.

I. Announcements

a. New IBC Member – Rima Barkauskas
    i. Rima was invited but unable to attend today's meeting. Her IBC appointment begins September 1, 2025
b. Office of Research Services is interviewing for a replacement Director of Research Protections. Lauren Miller will be the acting Director in the interim and Janine Kirin will take oversight of the IBC. In person interviews will take place 9/24/25 and 10/1/25. Members of the IBC will be invited to join for the candidate presentation.
c. All approved IBC meeting minutes will be posted to the DePaul website for all meetings after June 1, 2025.
d. Upcoming IBC Meetings:
    i. Doodle polls will be sent out. A September meeting will need to be held prior to September 22, 2025 as a research protocol will be expiring on that date.

II. Review of Draft Meeting Minutes

a. The committee members received a copy of the draft May 15, 2025 minutes prior to the meeting. No revisions were noted. Minutes were sent to the Chair for signature, which will indicate final approval. February 21, 2025 meeting minutes are still waiting for Chair signature.

III. List of Meeting Minutes Approved by Chair Signature

a. None

IV. New Business, Policy Discussion, and Other Discussion Items

a. The Chair proposed making the IBC Policy & Procedure Manual a shared document among the IBC Committee with any changes coming back to the committee for vote.

V. Continuing Education Materials and Discussion

a. none

VI. Current Protocol Submissions for Review

a. Annual Renewals with No Changes: None.
b. Annual Renewals with Changes:
c. Amendments: None.
d. Modifications to New Protocols that Require Full Board Review: None.
e. New Protocols for Initial Review:
    i. Research protocols: None.
    ii. Teaching protocols:
        a. Protocol #: IBC-2025-1714
        Title: BIO 210 Microbiology Labs
        PI Name: Joanna Brooke
        Biohazardous Agent(s): *Escherichia coli B, Escherichia coli C, Escherichia coli DH5, Escherichia coli K12, Bacillus megaterium, Bacillus subtilis, Citrobacter freundii, Enterobacter aerogenes, Pseudomonas fluorescens, Streptococcus mutans, Staphylococcus aureus, Staphylococcus epidermidis, Serratia marcescens*, Bacteriophage T4 (Phage T4), Bacteriophage phiX174 (Phage phiX174), *Micrococcus luteus, Rhodospirillum rubrum*, Bacteriophage T4r (Phage T4r), Bacteriophage T4r+ (Phage T4r+), *Pseudomonas aeruginosa, Micrococcus luteus, Escherichia coli HB101 K-12*, pGLO plasmid
        NIH category: III-F-8
        Proposed Risk Group: RG1/2
        Proposed BSL: BSL-1/2
        Primary Reviewers: Jingjing Kipp and Nicolette Zielinsky-Mozny

Protocol Summary: This protocol is for a series of 9 student labs. These lab exercises include: introduction and lab safety, microscopy and stains, use of microbiological media, bacterial transformation, microbial diversity, identification of bacteria, virology, antimicrobial agents, and immunology. The lab exercises are attached to this protocol. Students will work individually, in pairs or in small groups to complete the lab exercises. In the labs, there will also be demo plates that will be kept in the Biosafety Cabinet for students to only observe (not handle). These demo plates will include cultures of Staphylococcus aureus and Pseudomonas aeruginosa. The microbial diversity lab lists an exercise involving the detection of coliform bacteria in water samples. These water samples are not environmental samples; they are water volumes of deionized water, some of which have E. coli (e.g. E. coli DH5 or E. coli K-12) added to them by one of the lab instructors listed in this protocol. It should be noted that one bacterial strain listed in this protocol, Rhodospirillum rubrum, may be used as a demo slide (prepared by the lab instructor or teaching assistant) to show students the cell's unusual morphology. Summaries of the learning goals for each lab are being written and will be included in the lab handouts for the students.

Discussion:

At the August 25, 2025 meeting, the IBC discussed the following issues:

- Joanna Brooke's degree should be updated from JBrooke/degree.
- All personnel have CITI Biosafety training on file.
- This is a resubmission of an expiring protocol. The biohazardous agents being used are different strains of similar organisms. The categories and risk groups are correct.
- EHS will perform a BSL2 laboratory inspection prior to the beginning of the Fall Quarter.
- In the section entitled "Training and Safety" there is only a mention of the training for Teaching Assistants. There should also be a mention of student training. The Chair suggested specific verbiage that the PI can copy and paste into the protocol.
- The eProtocol system for Training and Safety Measures, Question 1, needs to be updated to teaching assistants and students. Currently it reads teaching assistants or students.
- In the section "Sanitation and Disposal" there was a lengthy discussion regarding the use of Conflikt vs a freshly prepared 10% bleach solution. The Chair had done some research and informed the committee of the following:
    - General contact times for hospital-grade products: 3 minutes for most bacteria, 5 minutes for Mycobacterium, and 10 minutes for viruses (though many are inactivated within 30 seconds). The times can vary with different products, though 10 minutes is generally regarded effective for all appropriate products in most laboratory situations.

    - Quaternary ammonium disinfectants only meet their effectiveness standards when used on previously cleaned, hard, non-porous surfaces that do not absorb liquids. Avoid using quaternary ammonium disinfectants on carpets, upholstery, unsealed wood, or fabrics, and do not apply them with paper towels or cloth rags. These materials contain cotton or cellulose, which can bind the disinfectant and significantly reduce its effectiveness against pathogens. Commercial disinfecting wipes are made from synthetic materials that do not bind to the active ingredients and may be appropriate for laboratory use.
    - When using quaternary ammonium disinfectants as both a cleaner and a disinfectant, first clean the surface, then apply a second coat and allow a 10-minute contact time for disinfection. While quaternary ammonium disinfectants can be effective against bacterial culture spills in some cases, their success is not guaranteed. Effectiveness can be reduced by factors such as interfering organic matter in the medium, dilution below the active concentration, insufficient contact time, the type of biohazardous agent, and the presence of biofilms. A fresh solution of bleach (sodium hypochlorite) diluted to 10%–20% of commercial strength with a 10-minute contact time is the preferred choice for a biological spill due to its strong oxidizing properties that are less affected by organic matter.
    - Only select hospital-grade, healthcare-grade, or industrial-grade products (e.g. Conflikt, Clorox Total 360 Disinfectant) to protect researchers from biohazardous agents. The EPA efficacy standards for consumer-grade or general-purpose products available in grocery stores (e.g. Lysol, Formula 409) are not as stringent as hospital-grade products. Products labeled as institutional-grade are sold in concentrated form to be diluted for economical use in schools, restaurants, and other commercial settings. These products may be either hospital-grade or commercial-grade. Read the product labeling carefully to ensure that you have selected the appropriate product.
    - This update will be added to the IBC Policy & Procedure Manual
- Based on this new information, the Sanitation & Disposal section of the protocol must be updated. Conflikt will be removed and only a freshly prepared 10% bleach solution with a 10 minute contact time will be used for any contaminated spills.
- The attached SOP BIO 210 Microbiology labs 2025 must also be updated to include this information for contaminated spills.
- This protocol involves no attempt to obtain expression of a foreign gene.
- The Principal Investigator has completed Receiving and Shipping Training.

IBC Determinations:

- The agent(s) meets the criteria for Risk Group (RG) 1 and 2.
- This protocol requires biosafety containment level 1 and/or 2 procedures under the *NIH Guidelines* or the *BMBL* for the biohazardous agent being utilized.
- This protocol falls under NIH Category III-F.
- Modifications requested to be reviewed by the primary reviewers.

A motion was made and seconded to request modifications to the protocol IBC 2025-1714.

The vote was as follows:

Motion: Modifications to be Required to be Reviewed via DMR	For: (6)	Against: (0)	Abstain: (0)	Recused: (0)	Total: (6)

i. Teaching protocols:

b. Protocol #: IBC-2025-1721
Title: Bio 191 AQ and WQ: General Biology for Majors I
PI Name: Claire Behrens
Biohazardous Agent(s): Sheep Alsevers (Sheep's blood), Human Cheek Cells
Proposed Risk Group: RG1
Proposed BSL: BSL-1
Primary Reviewers: Justin Maresh and Katie Abma

Protocol Summary: In the Cell Structure Lab, the undergraduate students will prepare cheek cell slides using swabs and methylene blue stain to observe their own cheek cells under a compound microscope. Students will only handle their personally prepared cheek cell slide. In the Membranes/Diffusion lab, the graduate teaching assistant or lab instructor will prepare a wet mount slide of sheep's blood for students to observe on the projected demo microscope. Students will not handle these slides directly.

Discussion:

At the August 25, 2025 meeting, the IBC discussed the following issues:

- The Sheep Alsevers from the Colorado Serum Company – There is no information in the protocol or on the website about any kind of herd testing for human pathogens/zoonotic diseases (such as Q fever a disease caused by the bacteria Coxiella burnetii).

- The PI should request proof from the company such as a Certificate of Origin/Analysis. If proof is not confirmed, the IBC may require that the PI orders sheep's blood from a different company.
- Regarding the cheek cell analysis, the protocol needs to be clear that students are only handling their own cheek cells. Since the buccal swab will be done with the end of a wooden stick and not a brush, there is much less risk of aerosols. No additional PPE, such as goggles, is needed.

IBC Determinations:

- The agent(s) meets the criteria for Risk Group (RG) 1 and 2.
- This protocol requires biosafety containment level 1 procedures under the *NIH Guidelines* or the *BMBL* for the biohazardous agent being utilized.
- Dakeishla Diaz-Morales requires Biosafety CITI training
- Modifications requested to be reviewed by the primary reviewers and Nicolette Zielinsky-Mozy.

A motion was made and seconded to request modifications to the protocol IBC 2025-1721.

The vote was as follows:

Motion: Modifications to be Required to be Reviewed via DMR	For: (6)	Against: (0)	Abstain: (0)	Recused: (0)	Total: (6)

VIII. **Notification of Approval Actions for Protocols Submissions for which the IBC Requested Modifications be reviewed via DMR**

1. Protocol #: IBC -2025-1593
   Title: "Preparation Lab for BIO 320/420 Advanced Microbiology"
   PI Name: Joanna Brooke, PhD
   Type of Biohazardous Agent: *S. epidermidis, P. fluorescens, E. coli K-12, E. coli B, E. coli C, E. coli DH5, B. megaterium, B.* subtillis*,* Phage against *S. epidermidis,* Phage against *P. fluorescens,* soil samples, Chicago River water
   NIH category:
   Risk Group: RG1 & 2
   BSL:BSL-1
   Approval Date: June 27, 2025
   Type of Submission: Initial

Summary of Submission: This protocol is to enable us to isolate phages from nature against bacteria (Escherichia coli, Staphylococcus epidermidis, Bacillus subtilis, Bacillus megaterium, and Pseudomonas fluorescens). We will also need to purify the phages before use in this BIO 320/420 Advanced Microbiology course. We will submit later the lab exercises or teaching activities to the IBC once we have developed them and before the start of this course. This course using these phages and bacteria is not due to start until Winter quarter 2026. A goal of this course is to investigate bacteriophages (phages) and how they interact with their respective bacterial hosts. Phages specifically attack and kill host bacteria. Phages are not known to cause disease in humans or animals or plants and have been used to treat bacterial infections of humans. This project will use the three bacteria mentioned above (E. coli, S. epidermidis and P. fluorescens) to recover phages from soil and Chicago River water. Phages will be enriched and isolated from these samples using standard collection techniques. During the course, students will use cell assays, microscopy, microbiology, and molecular biology techniques will be used to identify and characterize the phages, and assess their interaction with their respective bacterial host. Students will study the nucleic acid, proteins, shape and activity of the phages against the bacteria listed in this protocol. Resubmission of # IBC-2021-531.

IX. **Notification of Approval Actions Conducted Under Designated Member Review**

a. Renewals

1. Protocol #: IBC-2023-886
   Title: Assessing the Toxic Potential of Amyloid Precursor Protein Metabolites Related to Alzheimer's Disease
   PI Name: Eric Norstrom, PhD
   Type of Biohazardous Agents: pCMV expression vector plasmid, Neuro2a cells, DH5-a E. Coli cells
   NIH category: III-F-8
   Risk Group: RG-1
   BSL: BSL-1
   Approval Date: May 9, 2025
   Type of Submission: Renewal

Summary of Submission: Annual renewal with changes in personnel: the addition of Hunaid Irfan and Alyssa Hanson. Project is active and ongoing. Preliminary experiments suggest that the cellular toxicity hypothesized in the initial application may in fact be occurring. Cell viability was reduced with expression of C99 but not other control proteins. We are now repeating these experiments to determine whether the results will be repeatable.

2. Protocol #: IBC-2024-1310
   Title: The Role of the Avian chB6 Alloantigen in Apoptosis
   PI Name: Phillip Funk, PhD
   Type of Biohazardous Agent: Avia ChB6 alloantigen cDNA, pcDNA3 vector, Bk3a cells
   NIH category: III-F-8
   Risk Group: RG1
   BSL: BSL1
   Approval Date: June 24, 2024
   Type of Submission: Renewal
   Summary of Submission: Annual renewal with no changes. Project is currently inactive but will restart 9/10/25.

b. Amendments – none

X. **Notification of Approval Actions Conducted Under Administrative Review** - none

XI. **Notification of Protocols Confirmed at Exempt via Chair Confirmation -** none

XII. **Notification of Protocols that Have Been Terminated or Suspended** - none

XIII. **Notification of Protocols that Have Been Administratively Closed** - none

Lauren Miller and Nicolette Zielinsky-Mozny left the meeting at 10:59 a.m.

The meeting ended at 11:13 a.m.

Submitted respectfully by,

Janine Kirin
Director of Research Support Facility
On Behalf of the Office of Research Services

Approved by IBC Chair Signature:

Justin Maresh, Ph.D. Justin Maresh Date: 9/17/2025
IBC Chair