

**DePaul University
Institutional Biosafety Committee
Draft Meeting minutes
January 7, 2026**

<https://depaul.zoom.us/j/96162829058?pwd=r7LB6l2nc3ojXbXI1lUizUPRmsVqip.1>

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

*Indicates not present

The January 7, 2026 meeting of the DePaul IBC for the 2025-2026 academic year began at 12:02 p.m. with a quorum present.

I. Announcements

- a. Upcoming Educational Opportunities:
 - i. A Region 3 Listening Session from OSP has been scheduled. More information is attached. All IBC members should attend if possible
- b. Upcoming IBC Meetings:
 - i. Please complete Doodle polls so February and March meetings can be scheduled.
- c. General Announcements:
 - i. none

II. Review of Draft Meeting Minutes

- a. List dates of previous meetings for which minutes need to be reviewed and edited before Chair approval.

The committee members received a copy of the draft December 9, 2025 minutes prior to the meeting. Minor grammatical revisions were noted. Revisions will be made to the minutes and then they will be sent to the Chair for signature, which will indicate final approval.

III. List of Meeting Minutes Approved by Chair Signature

- a. November 4, 2025 was signed and approved by the Chair on

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

- a. Reminder that all DMR reviews have a turnaround time of 7 business days

V. Continuing Education Materials and Discussion

Continuing review of the IBC Policy and Procedure Manual:

https://depauledu.sharepoint.com/:w:/s/IBC/IQCPOy47LKOWRY4uBvO1OKFD_AUVTbY9N5OwhI1MyISG6X7Q?e=Imey6x

VI. Current Protocol Submissions for Review

- a. Renewals: none
- b. Amendments: none
- c. New Protocols that the IBC requested modifications to be brought to the full board.
1. Protocol #: Protocol #: 2025-1795
Title: BIO220-Biotechnology Labs
PI Name: Jianfei Zhao
Proposed Biohazardous Agents: *Escherichia coli* K-12, pLZDonor Plasmid DNA, pLZDonorGuide Plasmid DNA, pGLO Plasmid DNA
Proposed NIH category: III-F-1
Proposed Risk Group: 1
Proposed BSL: 1
Primary Reviewers: David George and Justin Maresh

Protocol Summary: The goal of the first lab is to introduce students to DNA fingerprinting and restriction enzyme analysis. The goal of the second lab is to introduce students to bacterial genetic transformation using the pGLO plasmid containing the green fluorescent protein (GFP) gene. The third lab teaches students how to use the polymerase chain reaction (PCR) and gel electrophoresis to amplify and detect specific DNA fragments in the context of simulated crime scene investigation. The goal of the fourth lab series is to teach students how to identify bacteria that contain a gene for green fluorescent protein (GFP) by cloning and screening colonies under UV light, then grow the selected bacteria and purify GFP from the cells. The fifth lab will introduce students to CRISPR-Cas9 gene editing technology by having them disrupt the lacZ gene in *E. coli* HB101-pBRKan (nonpathogenic, genetically modified strain). Students will transform bacteria with plasmids expressing the Cas9 nuclease, single guide RNA (sgRNA), and donor template DNA. The goal of the sixth lab is to introduce students to immunology and antigen-antibody interactions through ELISA. The goal of the seventh lab is to introduce students

to genomics, bioinformatics, and microbial identification through analysis of human microbiome DNA sequences. The goal of the eighth lab is to introduce students to proteomics, protein purification, and protein structure analysis.

Discussion:

At the January 7, 2026 meeting, the IBC discussed the following issues:

- The project information needs to include one room number per line. Additionally, rooms McGowan North 142 and 224 need to be added and room 203 needs clarification as this is an office.
- The Biohazardous Agents Table needs correcting. *E. Coli* should be listed as NIH Category III-F-8 appendix C-II
- Any use of 10% bleach must also mention that it is freshly prepared.
- The syllabus mentions a separate lab syllabus for training which should be attached to the protocol.
- The syllabus mentions outdated Covid instructions which need to be removed.
- It was discussed whether the transilluminator from Lab 1 would also be used in Lab 4.
- All personnel have CITI Biosafety training on file.

IBC Determinations:

- The agent(s) meet the criteria for Risk Group (RG) 1.
- This protocol requires biosafety containment level 1 procedures under the *NIH Guidelines* or the *BMBL* for the biohazardous agent being utilized .
- This protocol falls under NIH Category(ies) III-F-8 appendix C-II and III-F-1
- Modifications requested to be reviewed by the primary reviewers.

A motion was made and seconded to request modifications to the protocol. The vote was as follows:

Motion: Modifications to be Required to be Reviewed via DMR	For: 7	Against: 0	Abstain: 0	Recused: 0	Total: 7
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David George left the meeting at 1:15 p.m.

2. Protocol #: 2025-1796
Title: Functional Analysis of Plant Developmental Timing Genes in Arabidopsis
PI Name: Jianfei Zhao
Biohazardous Agent(s): *Escherichia coli K-12* (lab strain), Disarmed

Agrobacterium tumefaciens, Plasmids (CRISPR/Cas9, pNapin-GFP),
Arabidopsis thaliana

NIH category: III-D-5, III-D-2

Primary Reviewers: Justin Maresh and Jingjing Kipp

Protocol Summary: This research project aims to understand how certain genes called SPL genes as well as microRNA156/157 genes control the developmental timing in Arabidopsis plants—specifically, how plants transition from a juvenile to an adult stage. SPL genes are regulated by small molecules called microRNAs (miR156/157) that act like biological timers to ensure plants grow and mature at the right pace. By using CRISPR gene-editing technology, the project will selectively knock out (create “null” mutants of) individual SPL and miR156/157 genes to see how they affect the plant’s growth and development. Researchers will observe changes in leaf shape, flowering time, and other traits to figure out each gene’s role. Understanding these genes and how they work will shed light on how plants integrate internal signals and environmental cues to time their growth stages, which could have applications in agriculture and plant breeding.

Discussion:

At the January 7, 2026 meeting, the IBC discussed the following issues:

- The PI noted that BSL1-P signage would be displayed in the greenhouse. It was confirmed that no signage is displayed. IBC/EHS will provide the signage template for the PI and it must be hung before research can begin.
- The biohazardous agents table needs correcting. *E. Coli* should be NIH category III-F-8 appendix C-II and Disarmed *Agrobacterium tumefaciens*, Plasmids (CRISPR/Cas9, pNapin-GFP), *Arabidopsis thaliana* should be NIH category III-E-2a
- Under Training & Safety, the PI has checked off that he will be using a Biological Safety Cabinet in McGowan North 234. If this is correct, then room 234 needs to be added to the list of research locations.
- Sanitation and Disposal references room McGowan north 209 but it is not listed in the research locations. This needs to be added.
- The PI indicated that BSL1-P waste would be autoclaved and discarded in the regular trash. It was discussed that BSL1-P waste did not need to be autoclaved as EHS does not have the testing capabilities to confirm that the waste was ok to dispose of with the regular garbage. All BSL1-P waste should be put in red biohazard bins.
- The contact time for 10% freshly prepared bleach should be updated to 10 minutes.
- The Principal Investigator has completed Training/Education and Guidance for the Receipt of Biohazardous Materials.

IBC Determinations:

- The agent(s) meets the criteria for Risk Group (RG) 1.
- This protocol requires biosafety containment level 1 under the *NIH Guidelines* or the *BMBL* for the biohazardous agent being utilized .
- This protocol falls under NIH Category(ies) III-F-8 appendix C-II and III-E-2a
- Modifications requested to be reviewed by the primary reviewers.

A motion was made and seconded to request modifications to protocol #2025-1796. 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
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ii. Teaching Protocols: none

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

- a. Protocol #: IBC-2025-1788
Title: “Bio 202 Human Physiology Teaching Activities”
PI Name: Rima Barkauskas
Type of Biohazardous Agent: Sheep Red Blood Cells
NIH category: n/a
Risk Group: 1
BSL: 1
Approval Date: December 11, 2025
Type of Submission: Initial Teaching
Summary of Submission: BIO 202 will use sheep red blood cells and pre-made and preserved human red blood cell slides to teach students how to properly view microscopic samples, make detailed observations of red blood cell counts and hematocrits.

VIII. Notification of Approval Actions Conducted Under Designated Member Review

- a. Renewals:
 - a. Protocol #: 2024-1495
Title: HLTH 194 Human Pathogens and Defense
PI Name: Sarah Connolly

Type of Biohazardous Agent: *Alcaligenes faecalis*, *Bacillus megaterium*, *Bacillus stearothermophilus*, *Citrobacter freundii*, *Enterobacter aerogenes* (*Klebsiella aerogenes*), *Escherichia coli*, *Micrococcus luteus*, *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, *Serratia liquifaciens*, *Serratia marcescens*, *Staphylococcus epidermidis*, environmental samples, student skin samples

NIH category: n/a

Risk Group: 1/2

BSL:1

Approval Date: December 9, 2025

Type of Submission: Renewal

Summary of Submission: This was an annual renewal with no changes except for the removal of teaching assistants Jim Camilleri and Naomi Wangler.

- b. Amendments: none
- IX. **Notification of Approval Actions Conducted Under Administrative Review:** none
- X. **Notification of Protocols Confirmed at Exempt via Chair Confirmation:** none
- XI. **Notification of Protocols that Have Been Terminated or Suspended:** none
- XII. **Notification of Protocols that Have Lapsed in Approval:** none
- XIII. **Notification of Protocols that Have Been Administratively Closed:** none

The meeting ended at early at 1:50 p.m. so that Protocol 2025-1795 could be addressed with the PI as soon as possible. The IBC Policy and Procedure Manual would be reviewed at another meeting.

Submitted respectfully by,

Anna Bernadska
Director of Research Compliance
Office of Research Services

Approved by IBC Chair Signature:

Justin Maresh, Ph.D.
IBC Chair

Justin J
Maresh

Digitally signed by Justin
J Maresh
Date: 2026.09.14 13:28:34 -05'00' Date: