

**DePaul University**  
**Institutional Biosafety Committee**  
**Draft Meeting minutes**  
**October 7, 2025**  
**Location: Zoom**

<https://depaul.zoom.us/j/93508126266?pwd=CptYZ8uzUVLopWqKABd9ydCJLNO26X.1>

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

\*Indicates not present

The October 7, 2025 meeting of the DePaul IBC for the 2025-2026 academic year began at 1:36 p.m. with a quorum present.

**I. Announcements**

- a. Upcoming Educational Opportunities:
  - i. none
- b. Upcoming IBC Meetings:
  - i. November 4, 2025
  - ii. December 9, 2025
- c. General Announcements:
  - i. IBC Reviewer Guide now available on the eProtocol home page after login.

**II. Review of Draft Meeting Minutes**

- a. The committee members received a copy of the draft September 27, 2025 minutes prior to the meeting. No revisions were noted. Minutes will be sent to the Chair for signature, which will indicate final approval.

**III. List of Meeting Minutes Approved by Chair Signature**

- a. August 25, 2025 IBC Meeting Minutes were approved and signed by the Chair on September 17, 2025

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

- a. The Chair discussed the new NIH initiative to strengthen biosafety oversight with regional listening sessions. Communications from the NIH regarding these sessions appears limited. Committee members interested in participating should watch for announcements from the Chair or IBC.

**V. Continuing Education Materials and Discussion**

- a. IBC Policy and Procedures Manual to be added to the November 4, 2025 agenda. All updates and suggestions should be submitted by October 28, 2025. The Chair will edit the language in the manual regarding training.

**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: none
- d. New Protocols for Initial Review (list any new protocols requiring full IBC review)
  - i. Research Protocols:
    - a. Protocol #: IBC-2025-1726  
Title: PFAS Analysis from animal tissue samples and fluids  
PI Name: Justin Maresh  
Biohazardous Agent(s): Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS), Tissue Samples from Rats  
NIH category: n/a  
Primary Reviewers: David George & Nicolette Zielinsky-Mozny

**Protocol Summary:** Concentrations of perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) will be assessed in samples of rat tissues and fluids received from the lab of Dr. Margaret Bell of the DePaul University Department of Biology in support of that lab's research. The central hypothesis under investigation proposes that early life exposure to per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) alters brain and metabolic processes in adolescence, which may be revealed in the context of a 'Western' high -sugar and -fat diet. The results of this study will shed light on how converging environmental challenges may predispose our modern societies to metabolic syndrome, a constellation of symptoms related to dysregulation of sugars, lipids, and inflammation throughout the body.

## **Discussion:**

At the October 7, 2025 meeting, the IBC discussed the following issues:

- It was noted that the biosafety cabinet certification date needed updating before any project work could begin.
- The project summary referenced an already approved protocol from Dr. Margaret Bell but failed to mention the associated IBC protocol name and number.
- There were a number of issues discussed regarding the PFOs SOP that was provided. The SOP referenced Dichloromethane, which was not mentioned in the protocol. The emergency number was listed as 9-911 instead of just 911.
- EHS requested to be added as an additional reviewer in regard to the SOP.
- It was determined that the PI submitted the wrong SOP for this protocol and will submit a correct version with the other modifications.

## **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.
- Modifications requested to be reviewed by the primary reviewers and EHS.

A motion was made and seconded to request modifications for protocol IBC-2025-1726. The vote was as follows:

|  |           |               |               |               |             |
|--|-----------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|
| Motion:<br>Modifications to be<br>Required to be<br>Reviewed via DMR | For:<br>5 | Against:<br>0 | Abstain:<br>0 | Recused:<br>0 | Total:<br>1 |
|--|-----------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|

### ii. Teaching Protocols

#### 1. Protocol #: IBC-2025-1743

Title: Isolation of Plasmid DNA from *E. coli* for CHE 341

PI Name: Justin Maresh

Biohazardous Agent(s): Plasmid pBR322, *Escherichia coli* strain JM109 (*E. coli* K-12 derivative, non-enterotoxin producing strain), Ethidium bromide

NIH category: III-F-8

Primary Reviewers: Katie Abma & Rima Barkauskas

**Protocol Summary:** The goal of this two-week lab is for students to learn how to isolate and purify plasmid DNA from *E. coli*, use restriction enzymes to digest the DNA, and visualize DNA

fragments on an agarose gel. The plasmid referred to as pAB123 in the student instructions is a false name for the common cloning plasmid pBR322.

### **Discussion:**

At the October 7, 2025 meeting, the IBC discussed the following issues:

- It was questioned whether ethidium bromide should be listed as a biological hazard as it does not have biological origins. The Chair noted that other alternatives were not necessarily safer and that there was more literature about the use of ethidium bromide. It was decided that ethidium bromide would be included as a biological hazard. The reference link in the table also needs updating.
- The CHE341 Lab 7 Notes have outdated personnel information. Corey Lin should be removed and replaced with John Lorenzen.
- The Lab 7 notes also have inconsistencies with the protocol and contains typos.
- The Lab 7 notes refers to “preppers.” Clarification is needed as to whether this is the TA or a student and once identified needs to be added to the protocol.
- Sofiya Maltseva is missing CITI training.
- There is a reference to a mini-prep kit but no mention of it in the protocol.
- There are inconsistencies and errors in the Waste Disposal and Safety section.
  - Large spills show a 10 minute contact time vs. 20 minutes for small spills.
  - For disinfection, all mentions of Conflikt should be removed and replaced with a freshly made 10% bleach solution and should be updated in the protocol as well.
  - Glass pickup procedure should remove the mention of cardboard and include forceps.
- The protocol section regarding aerosols and centrifugation was checked for no aerosol potential but should be yes.

### **IBC Determinations:**

- The agent(s) meets 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 continues to falls under NIH Category: III-F-8
- 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:<br>Modifications to be<br>Required to be<br>Reviewed via DMR | For:<br>5 | Against:<br>0 | Abstain:<br>0 | Recused:<br>0 | Total:<br>0 |
|--|-----------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|

**VII. Notification of Approval Actions for Protocols Submissions in which the IBC Requested Modifications:**

1. Protocol #: IBC-2025-1721  
Title: “Bio 191 AQ and WQ: General Biology for Majors I”  
PI Name: Claire Behrens  
Type of Biohazardous Agent: Sheep Alsevers (Sheep’s blood); Human Cheek Cells  
NIH category: n/a  
Risk Group: RG 1/2  
BSL: 1  
Approval Date: September 10, 2025  
Type of Submission: Initial Teaching Protocol  
Summary of Submission: These labs are being taught for Bio 191 – General Biology for Majors 1:
  - Cell Structure
  - Cell Membranes and Diffusion
  
2. Protocol #: IBC2025-1714  
Title: BIO 210 Microbiology Labs  
PI Name: Joanna Brooke  
Type of Biohazardous Agent: 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  
Risk Group(s): RG1, RG1  
Biosafety Level (BSL): BSL1, BSL2  
Approval Date: September 10, 2025

Type of Submission: Initial Teaching Protocol

Summary of Submission: These labs are being taught for Bio 210 – Microbiology Labs:

- Lab 1 Handling and Growing Bacterial Cultures
- Lab 2 Bacterial Stains
- Lab 3 Bacterial Growth
- Lab 4 Genetic Transformation
- Lab 5 Microbial Diversity
- Lab 6 Medical Microbiology
- Lab 7 Virology
- Lab 8 Antibiotic susceptibility; Disinfectants & antiseptics
- Lab 9 ELISA Lab

3. Protocol #: IBC 2025-1715

Title: The Biology of *Stenotrophomonas maltophilia*

PI Name: Joanna Brooke

Type of Biohazardous Agent: *Stenotrophomonas maltophilia* (*S. maltophilia*), *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (*P. aeruginosa*), *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*), *Staphylococcus aureus* (*S. aureus*), *Staphylococcus epidermidis* (*S. epidermidis*), EZ-Tn5™ Tnp Transposome™, *Phages*, *Enterococcus faecalis* (*E. faecalis*), Miscellaneous bacterium

NIH category: III-F-3 and III-D-2-a

Risk Group: RG 1 & 2

BSL: 1 & 2

Approval Date: September 29, 2025

Type of Submission: Initial

Summary of Submission: The long-term objective of the research is to understand how the emerging multi-drug resistant opportunistic pathogen, *Stenotrophomonas maltophilia*, can result in serious infections in immunocompromised patient populations. This ubiquitous bacterium can form bacterial films (biofilms) on the surfaces of medical equipment in hospitals and implanted devices in patients. These biofilms can act as pervasive and persistent sources of nosocomial infections by *S. maltophilia*. Biofilm infections are notoriously difficult to treat with antimicrobial therapies. These observations underscore the need to understand the molecular mechanisms involved in the biology of this pathogen and develop new strategies against *S. maltophilia*.

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

a. Renewals: none

b. Amendments: none

**IX. Notification of Approval Actions Conducted Under Administrative**

1. Protocol #: IACUC-2023-1172

Title: "Characterization of K14TRT (mouse mammary) cell line deficient in Claudin-7 as a model for EMT transitions"

PI Name: Stephanie Dance-Barnes

Type of Biohazardous Agent: K14TRT mouse mammary cell line, MDA-MB-231 human breast cancer cells

NIH category: n/a

Risk Group: 1 & 2

BSL: 1 & 2

Approval Date: September 12, 2025

Type of Submission: Amendment

Summary of Submission: Amendment involves: 1) Adding Wyatt Kinney

**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 Been Administratively Closed: none**

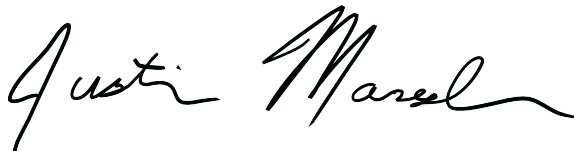
The meeting ended at 2:30 p.m.

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.  
IBC Chair



Date: 11/23/25