MIDWESTERN UNIVERSITY

555 31st Street

Downers Grove Il 60515

Institutional Biosafety Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting Details

Date: October 27, 2025

Time: 2:00 P.M. – 2:35 P.M. Illinois / 12:00 P.M. – 12:35 P.M. Arizona

Location: Remote via Microsoft Teams

Meeting Closed: As a private institution, Midwestern University does not hold public IBC meetings. All IBC Meeting Minutes are available on the Midwestern University website.

Members Present: Nicholas F. Noriea (IBC Chair), Richard Laddaga (Biosafety Officer, Downers Grove), Jeremy Ellermeier, Brian Wellensiek, Ogi Okwumabua, Kathleen Kennedy, and Amanda Rice.

Guests Present: None.

Staff Present: Nicholas Cronk

Members Excused: Adebayo Molehin (Biosafety Officer, Glendale), Agnes Pascual, Karolina Klosowska, Robert Foreman, and Allen Helm.

Commonly Used Abbreviations

- IBC: Institutional Biosafety Committee
- BSO: Biological Safety Officer
- BSL: Biosafety Level
- PI: Principal Investigator
- IACUC: Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee
- NIH: National Institutes of Health
- SOP: Standard Operating Procedure

Agenda Items

1. **Call to Order:** The Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) Chair called the meeting to order at 2:00 P.M. Central / 12:00 P.M. Arizona. A quorum was present.
2. **Member Conflicts:** The IBC Chair reminded attendees that any notes that they retain are subject to public disclosure. A statement was also made about conflict of interest and voting on research proposals as described in the IBC Charter. This includes sharing a grant or a familial relationship.
3. **Review of Previous Minutes:** August 18, 2025 IBC Meeting Minutes. The committee voted 5 yes; 0 no; 2 abstained to approve the previous meeting's minutes.
4. **Old Business:**
   - Dr. Jeffrey Kurkewich, MWU File #IL-26, "ZEB2-Mediated Transcriptional Regulation of Hematopoietic Stem Cell Fate Determination and Leukemic Transformation."
     i. Approved 9/23/25.
   - Dr. Michael Ebeid, MWU File #IL-01, "Development and Regeneration of mammalian cochlea."
     i. Approved 9/23/25.
5. **Informational:**

   – None.
6. **New Business:**

   – None.
7. **IBC rsNA Applications:**

   – Glendale, AZ Campus

   i. Dr. Nicholas Haley, MWU File #AZ-28, "Exploring chronic wasting disease prion amplification potential in various PRNP substrates."

   ii. The IBC Chair presented the review containing the following: risk assessment to determine the appropriate biocontainment levels, assessment of the facilities, procedures, practices, and training and expertise of personnel, agent characteristics, types of manipulations planned, source(s) of the nucleic sequences, nature of the nucleic acid sequences, host(s) and vector(s) to be used, and whether an attempt will be made to obtain expression of a transgene, and if so, the function of the protein that will be produced.

iii. The Primary Reviewer Form was shown.

iv. All the required trainings have been completed.

v. The IBC Chair made a motion to approve the rsNA Application under NIH guidelines III-E-1 and III-F-2 with containment of agents at BSL/ABSL-1 and BSL/ABSL-2, pending the following revisions:

1. #32: Please answer this question and briefly list the reagent used (e.g., lipofectamine).
2. #53: Please confirm sealed centrifuge containers will be used. Please clarify the use of the splash shield.
3. #54: Please clarify and describe the specific tissue homogenization used and confirm these will be done within a biosafety cabinet.
4. #58/59: Please revise your inactivation procedures and provide a reference for the procedures you will use for both solid and liquid waste inactivation of prion. The BMBL Section VIII-H describes prion inactivation methods, page 358.
5. #58: Additionally, please state that liquid wastes from FPLC will be treated as biohazardous waste.

vi. The Committee voted unanimously to approve the IBC rsNA Application from Dr. Haley pending the revisions.

8. **IBC rsNA Change Forms:**

– None.

9. **Adjournment:** 2:35 P.M. Central / 12:35 P.M. Arizona.