MIDWESTERN UNIVERSITY

555 31st Street

Downers Grove Il 60515

Institutional Biosafety Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting Details

Date: February 24, 2026

Time: 12:00 P.M. – 12:46 P.M. Illinois / 11:00 A.M. – 11:46 A.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), Adebayo Molehin (Biosafety Officer, Glendale), Richard Laddaga (Biosafety Officer, Downers Grove), Brian Wellensiek, Karolina Klosowska, Allen Helm, Ogi Okwumabua, and Kathleen Kennedy.

Guests Present: None.

Staff Present: Nicholas Cronk

Members Excused: Jeremy Ellermeier, Agnes Pascual, Amanda Rice, and Robert Foreman.

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 12:00 P.M. Central / 11:00 A.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:** February 3, 2026 IBC Meeting Minutes. The committee voted 8 yes; 0 no; 0 abstained to approve the previous meeting's minutes.
4. **Old Business:**
   - None.
5. **Informational:**
   - Dr. Robert C.C. Mercer, MWU File #AZ-29, "Molecular mechanisms of prion pathogenesis."
     i. Change Form to add new plasmids.
     ii. Chair and BSO Approved 2/5/26.
6. **New Business:**
   - None.
7. **IBC rsNA Applications:**

   Downers Grove, IL Campus

   - Dr. Milad Alasady, MWU File #IL-26, "Molecular chaperones rewire protein activity to drive cancer growth and resistances."
     i. 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.
     ii. The Primary Reviewer Form was shown.
     iii. All the required trainings have been completed.

iv. The IBC Chair made a motion to approve the rsNA Application under NIH guidelines III-D-3-a, III-E-1, III-F-1, and III-F-8 Appendix C-II with containment of agents at BSL/ABSL-1, BSL/ABSL-2, and BSL/ABSL-2, pending the following revisions:

1. Please name a Lab Contact and provide an emergency contact phone number for yourself.
2. #1: Please correct typo in line 2, should state "impact."
3. #2: Please remove the second instance of "human" in line 2 and provide the full list of cell lines you provided in your Biosafety SOP.
4. #27: Please correct typo in line 2, should state "plasmids."
5. #45: Check III-F.
6. #57: Please list the disinfectants used.
7. #58: Please list the location.
8. #70: Please check Yes or No.
9. #75: Please list any other personnel working on this project.

v. The Committee voted unanimously to approve the IBC rsNA Application from Dr. Alasady pending the revisions.

– Dr. Kristina Martinez-Guryn, MWU File #IL-12, "The role of gut mycobiota in regulating host lipid absorption."

i. 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.

ii. The Primary Reviewer Form was shown.

iii. All the required trainings have been completed.

iv. The IBC Chair made a motion to approve the rsNA Application under NIH guidelines III-D-1-a, III-D-4-a, III-D-4-b, III-E-1, III-E, III-F-1, III-F-2, and III-F-8 Appendix C-II with containment of agents at BSL/ABSL-1, BSL/ABSL-2, and BSL/ABSL-2, pending the following revisions:

1. #8: Please check Yes or No.
2. #13: Please complete sub-questions a., b., and c.
3. #45: Check III-F.
4. Work with Dr. Laddaga to revise your Biosafety SOP to include the changes made in this Application.

v. The Committee voted unanimously to approve the IBC rsNA Application from Dr. Martinez-Guryn pending the revisions.

8. IBC rsNA Change Forms:

– None.

9. Adjournment: 12:46 P.M. Central / 11:46 A.M. Arizona.