NIH Institutional Biosafety Committee Minutes
Location: Rocky Mountain Laboratories
February 19, 2026
1:00 PM – 3:00 PM
Virtual via Microsoft Teams/In person at Building A Room 322

Members Present:
Quorum Met: Yes

☒	Sue Priola	Chair	☐	Alida Merritt	Local Non-Affiliated
☐	Andrea Marzi	Vice Chair	☐	Alexandra Scranton	Member
☒	Rebecca Anderson	Biosafety Officer	☒	Clayton Winkler	Lab Representative
☒	Paul Beare	Lab Representative	☐	Todd Wohlman	Member
☐	Chris Bosio	Lab Representative	☐	Sonja Best	Ex officio
☒	Megan Brose	Member	☐	Marshall Bloom	Ex officio
☒	Larry Brouwer	Local Non-Affiliated	☐	Marcie Caldwell	Ex officio
☒	Chad Clancy	Animal Expert	☐	Frank DeLeo	Ex officio
☒	Erik Hoover	Local Non-Affiliated	☐	Heinz Feldmann	Ex officio
☒	Scott Kobayashi	Lab Representative	☐	Josh Kellar	Ex officio
☐	Jamie Lovaglio	Animal Expert	☐	Brian Vickrey	Ex officio

Guests Present:

Jared Montana, Rachel Feldman, Patrick Hanley, Shanda Sarchette, Grace Markley, Lawrence Brouwer, Michael Kujawa, Richard Baumann, Jocelyn Mendoza, Kaitlyn Conners, Madison Cahill

Announcements & Call to Order

I. Meeting called to order by Sue Priola at 1:01 pm.
II. The IBC Chair reminded all members present to identify any conflicts of interest as each registration is reviewed.

Review of Past IBC Meeting Minutes

I. January 15th, 2026 Minutes
    a. Comments on minutes
        i. Sue Priola noted some minor typos that need to be corrected.
    b. The minutes were unanimously approved with minor modifications.

New Committee Business

I. BSO or IBC lead reviewer preliminary registration approvals since the previous meeting
    a. Pathogen only Registration Numbers – None
    b. rDNA and rDNA/pathogen Registration Numbers: None
    c. Registration amendments summary: None
    d. Committee Discussion: None

II. Registrations for Committee review

a. Registrations for committee review:
Rahul Suryawanshi, 26-RML-002

i. Reviewers: Not applicable; No recombinant DNA work

ii. Review Summary and risk assessment: This new registration proposes to investigate astrovirus replication kinetics in Bruton's Tyrosine Kinase (BTK) - deficient brain organoids; to characterize innate immune sensing and antiviral signaling in BTK-deficient organoids, and to map single-cell transcriptional responses to astrovirus in BTK-deficient organoids. This registration describes work with Astrovirus and human organoids. Astrovirus causes gastroenteritis and is more severe in children under the age of 2 and is mild in adults. Astrovirus infections are more severe in immunocompromised adults and the elderly. Astrovirus-infected individuals develop diarrhea, the most prominent symptom, as well as vomiting, nausea, anxiety, headache, malaise, abdominal discomfort, and fever. Onset of symptoms at 2–3 days post infection. Infections can be neuroinvasive and capsid proteins (VA1) are strongly associated with severe meningoencephalitis and encephalitis in immunocompromised patients, including pediatric oncology and transplant populations. The following precautions for this work include:

1. Work as described with Astrovirus is approved at BSL-2. A 1-2-3 poster must be displayed in the laboratory and all personnel on this registration must maintain annual lab safety training through the Division of Safety. Care should be taken to minimize worker exposure to aerosols, such as working in a certified Class II BSC and using gasketed bucket covers when centrifuging infectious material.
2. Work with human blood and body fluids is approved at the established BSL-2. A 1-2-3 poster must be displayed in the laboratory and all personnel on this registration must maintain annual lab safety and BBP training/refresher through the Division of Safety. Care should be taken to minimize worker exposure to aerosols, such as working in a certified Class II BSC and using gasketed bucket covers when centrifuging infectious material. All personnel should be offered the hepatitis B (HepB) vaccine. Please contact OMS at 406-375-9600 regarding HepB immunization.

iii. Committee Discussion: The committee noted a typo in the last sentence of the brief summary section. The following sentence needs to be corrected, “This will also let us identify which cells are permissive to virus replication and which don’t.”

iv. Minimum PPE required, special practices, and recommended OMS consult if applicable: Lab coat and gloves.

v. Training:
1. Laboratory safety training (includes BBP training)

vi. Animal studies proposed: No.

vii. The committee discussed the dual-use and ePPP potential of these experiments. The committee agreed that there were no dual-use or ePPP concerns with the proposal.

viii. Work is approved at BSL-2

ix. Relevant sections of the NIH Guidelines: Not applicable; no recombinant work

x. A motion was made to approve the registration pending the following changes or conditions.
    1. Correct the last sentence in the brief summary section.
xi. The committee unanimously approved with minor modifications.
    1. Conflicts of Interest: None
    2. Votes for: _8____ Votes against: _0_____Abstained: __0_____

a. Registration amendments for committee review:

Sonja Best, PRD-22-251 Amend

i. Reviewers: Not applicable; No recombinant DNA work
ii. Review Summary and risk assessment: The amendment is to add sheep scrapie to the registration. The BSO informed the committee that the registration already included sheep scrapie, it was under the Chronic Wasting Disease section so it was missed. The BSO will update the TSE section to include sheep scrapie. No IBC approval is necessary since the material was already approved.
iii. Committee Discussion: None.
iv. Minimum PPE required, special practices, and recommended OMS consult if applicable: Lab coat and gloves.
v. Training:
    1. Laboratory safety training (includes BBP training)
vi. Animal studies proposed: None
vii. The committee discussed the dual-use and ePPP potential of these experiments. The committee agreed that there were no dual-use or ePPP concerns with the proposal.
viii. Work is approved at BSL-2/ABSL-2.
ix. Relevant sections of the NIH Guidelines: Not applicable; no recombinant work
x. There was no vote by the IBC since the material was already covered on the registration.

Heinz Feldmann, PRD-22-81 Amend

i. Reviewers: Not applicable; No recombinant DNA work
ii. Review Summary and risk assessment: The amendment is to add propagation of Sin Nombre hantavirus in Peromyscus maniculatus (deer mice) in order to prepare stock virus for future animal studies. Deer mice are the natural reservoir for Sin Nombre virus and the Feldmann lab has previously shown that virus from tissue culture does not cause disease in any of their tested animal models, however virus propagated from deer mice does. The Feldmann lab would like to propagate virus in deer mice for future animal studies. The lab has done this previously and has published on this topic. The DURC-IRE reviewed this proposal and approved it on 2/18/2026.
iii. Committee Discussion: The committee discussed the experiments and agreed there were no dual use concerns.
iv. Minimum PPE required, special practices, and recommended OMS consult if applicable: BSL-3: Disposable gown, double gloves, N95 or PAPR, and shoe covers. Eye protection if potential for splashes. For BSL-4: positive pressure suit.
v. Training:
    1. Laboratory safety training (includes BBP training)
    2. BSL-3 laboratory biosafety training

3. BSL-4 laboratory biosafety training
4. Select Agent training

vi. Animal studies proposed: Yes, mice.
vii. The committee discussed the dual-use and ePPP potential of these experiments. The committee agreed that there were no dual-use or ePPP concerns with the proposal. The committee agreed that the registration meets the criteria for review by the DURC-IRE and noted that review took place on 2/18/2025.
viii. Work is approved at BSL-3/ABSL-4.
ix. Relevant sections of the NIH Guidelines: Not applicable; no recombinant work
x. A motion was made to approve the registration as written.
xi. The committee unanimously approved with minor modifications.
1. Conflicts of Interest: None
2. Votes for: _8____ Votes against: _0_____Abstained: __0_____

Van Doremalen, 26-RML-001

i. Reviewers: Sue Priola, Clayton Winkler
ii. Review Summary and risk assessment: The registration describes the van Doremalen lab's project to investigate the ability of different vaccine platforms to elicit protective immunity against various respiratory viruses. The lab is registering work with the following pathogens: human blood and body fluids, RSV, high pathogenic avian influenza, seasonal H1N1 and H3N2 influenza (including mouse adapted H3N2), SARS, SARS-CoV-2, MERS-CoV, and bat coronaviruses. In addition to these pathogens, the registration covers four vaccine platforms that will be used for vaccination again the listed pathogens either *in vitro* or *in vivo*. These platforms include non-infectious VLPs, a Newcastle Disease virus vectored vaccine, replication incompetent chimpanzee (or human) adenovirus vectored vaccine, and nucleic acids in lipid nanoparticles. All of the vaccines except for the nucleic acids in lipid nanoparticles are generated by collaborators and provided directly to the PI for experimental use. The nucleic acids in lipid nanoparticles are either constructed by the PI or provided by a collaborator.
iii. Committee Discussion: The committee discussed the registration and had no concerns with the proposed work. The committee did state that the registration needed more detail in the recombinant DNA sections. The following were recommendations from the committee:
1. Vector maps need to be attached for each vaccine section and they need to be clearly labeled so it is clear which map goes to each vaccine platform.
2. For each vaccine section, in the Recombinant Details Section, Question: "What protein and/or siRNA targeting proteins are being expressed . . .", please provide examples of proteins that will be expressed. All sections except the New Castle virus need this information added.
3. For the Replication-incompetent chimpanzee or replication-incompetent human adenovirus-vectored vaccines section, Recombinant Details Section, question "If you are working with viral rDNA, what percent of the viral source genome will be cloned into your recombinants? Confirm if it should be > or <60%.

4. For the Nucleic acids in lipid nanoparticles, add more details to the prokaryote section and/or the eukaryote cell section on how the nanoparticles will be packaged or generated and then used. More detail is needed overall in this section.
5. For the Nucleic acids in lipid nanoparticles section, Recombinant Details Section, verify that the percentage of viral source genome is <60%?
6. For each vaccine section, in the Eukaryotic Cell work section, give examples of cell lines that will be used.
7. Verify if a permit is needed for the New Castle virus? If a permit is needed, then it should be attached.

xii. Minimum PPE required, special practices, and recommended OMS consult if applicable: BSL-2: Lab coat and gloves. BSL-3: Disposable gown, double gloves, N95 or PAPR, and shoe covers. Eye protection if potential for splashes. For BSL-4: positive pressure suit.

iv. Training:
1. Laboratory safety training (includes BBP training)
2. BSL-3 laboratory biosafety training
3. BSL-4 laboratory biosafety training
4. Select Agent training

v. Animal studies proposed: Yes. Mice.

vi. The committee discussed the dual-use and ePPP potential of these experiments. The committee agreed that there were no dual-use or ePPP concerns with the proposal. The committee agreed that the registration meets the criteria for review by the DURC-IRE

vii. Work is approved at BSL-2/ABSL-2, BSL-3/ABSL-3, or BSL-4/ABSL-4 depending on the virus used.

viii. Relevant sections of the NIH Guidelines: III-D-1-a, III-E-1

ix. A motion was made to approve the registration pending the following changes or conditions.
1. Add more detail to the recombinant DNA sections.
2. Vector maps need to be attached for each vaccine section and they need to be clearly labeled so it is clear which map goes to each vaccine platform.
3. For each vaccine section, in the Recombinant Details Section, Question: “What protein and/or siRNA targeting proteins are being expressed . . .”, please provide examples of proteins that will be expressed. All sections except the New Castle virus need this information added.
4. For the Replication-incompetent chimpanzee or replication-incompetent human adenovirus-vectored vaccines section, Recombinant Details Section, question “If you are working with viral rDNA, what percent of the viral source genome will be cloned into your recombinants? Confirm if it should be > or <60%.
5. For the Nucleic acids in lipid nanoparticles, add more details to the prokaryote section and/or the eukaryote cell section on how the nanoparticles will be packaged or generated and then used. More detail is needed overall in this section.

6. For the Nucleic acids in lipid nanoparticles section, Recombinant Details Section, verify that the percentage of viral source genome is <60%?
7. For each vaccine section, in the Eukaryotic Cell work section, give examples of cell lines that will be used.
8. Verify if a permit is needed for the New Castle virus? If a permit is needed, then it should be attached.

x. The committee unanimously approved with minor modifications.
3. Conflicts of Interest: None
4. Votes for: _8____ Votes against: _0_____Abstained: __0_____

III. Committee Review of Inactivation Procedures (if not reviewed under a registration)
a. *Coxiella burnetii* inactivation validation with 10% PFA for Carrie Long.
i. Inactivation procedure summary: The lab validated an inactivation protocol using 10% PFA on *Coxiella burnetii* spiked splenocytes. The appropriate controls were included and yielded the expected results. All test samples were negative by plaque assay.
ii. Committee Discussion: The committee discussed the experimental design and discussed concern that the lab did not test infected cells since *Coxiella burnetii* is an obligate intracellular bacteria. The committee also wanted the PI to verify that they did test 10% as this is a higher concentration than typically used.
iii. The committee tabled the review. The committee is willing to expedite the review after the experiment is repeated with infected cells instead of spiked samples.

IV. Standard Operating Procedures/Plans
a. BSL-3 Suite A
i. SOP Summary: The update was to add the new inactivation procedures with 10% PFA.
ii. Committee Discussion: The committee agreed the SOP should be tabled until additional testing is done by Carrie Long's lab. Testing needed is described above.
iii. The committee tabled the review.

V. Serious Adverse Events in Clinical Trials reviewed by the Committee
a. None

Reports

I. Biosafety Officer Report – See attached

Around the Room/Committee Discussion

I. None

Adjournment

I. Meeting adjourned by Sue Priola at 01:57 pm

Next Meeting

I. Scheduled March 19th, 2026.

NIH RML Institutional Biosafety Committee Meeting

Biosafety Officer (BSO) Report

February 19, 2026

Business Conducted since the last IBC Meeting

A. BSO approvals
   a. Feldmann PRD 23-202 Amend
      i. Add mammalian and avian cells to registration
B. Electronic business
   a. None

New business for IBC meeting

A. See agenda.

Division of Safety activities since the last IBC Meeting

A. Animal Study Protocols Review- Performed by Division of Safety staff
   a. 9 ASPs reviewed since the last IBC meeting.

B. Biosafety Training- Performed by Division of Safety staff

Type of Training	Number of Sessions	Number of Employees Trained
New Employee	1	1
Annual Refresher Lab Biosafety	1	27
Select Agent-Initial	2	4
Select Agent- Refresher	1	4
Select Agent- Visitor	3	3
BSL-3 Laboratory Biosafety-Initial	1	2
Practical Training	1	2
BSL-4 Laboratory Biosafety-Initial	n/a	n/a
Suit Training	2	1
Checklist Training	5	1
BSL-4 Laboratory Biosafety-Refresher & SA Refresher	n/a	n/a
Laboratory Biosafety Support Staff-Initial	1	2
Laboratory Biosafety Support Staff-Refresher & SA Refresher	n/a	n/a
BSL-4 Medical Emergency Egress Training	n/a	n/a

C. Biological Incidents to Report
   a. Form 3 reported to Federal Select Agent Program on 02/18/2026.

D. Other Updates
   a. Remote FSAP Inspection is February 24-26th, 2026.