Rowan University
Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: June 5, 2026
Meeting Time: 11:03 AM – 12:13 PM
Meeting Location: Microsoft Teams
Chair: Dr. Kevin Currie

Voting Members:

Member	Role/Expertise	Present	Excused
Dr. K.C.	Chair	x	
Dr. L.P.	Scientist	x	
Dr. B.W.	Scientist	x	
Dr. C.K.	Scientist	x	
Dr. M.F.	Plant Expert	x	
Dr. N.F.	Animal Expert		x
Dr. M.A.	Scientist	x	
Dr. J.L.	Scientist	x	
Mr. E.G.	Research Compliance Director	x	
Mr. T.B.	Biological Safety Officer	x	
Mr. S.G.	Non-affiliated	x	
Mr. R.H.	Non-affiliated		x
Dr. J.F.	Alternate - Scientist		x

Guests: Ms. S.S. (Notetaker)
Quorum: The committee has twelve voting members, and ten members were present along with the alternate scientist.

I. Call to Order and Conflicts of Interest
The IBC Chair called the meeting to order at 11:03 AM.

II. Review and approval of agenda
The June 5, 2026 agenda was approved unanimously.

III. Review and approval of prior meeting minutes
Motion: Approve the May 1, 2026 meeting minutes as written.

Votes: 9 For, 0 Against, 1 Abstain

IV. Institutional Review Entity (IRE) - The Institutional Dual Use Research Contact (IDURC) did not receive any notifications about dual use concerns nor received any contact from researchers using select agents/toxins.

V. Chairman's Report
   A. Reminder to identify conflict of interest

VI. Biological Safety Officer (BSO) / Environmental Health & Safety (EH&S) Report
   A. Report posted on Google Drive

VII. Review of Prior Business
   A. Pearce Lab - Approved May 1, 2026
   B. Niedringhaus-West Lab - Amendment Approved May 15, 2026

VIII. New Business
   A. Holaska Lab - Renewal
      a. **PI**: James Holaska
      b. **Project Title and #:** Emerin dysregulation compromises nuclear integrity and genomic organization, #121
      c. NIH Sponsored: Yes
      d. Summary: The research focus is to understand the mechanism by which emerin, a nuclear envelope protein, regulates genomic organization and gene expression during muscle stem cell differentiation and nuclear structure in cancer metastasis. Biochemical and cell biological assays are used along with recombinant proteins to study the interaction of emerin with various partners and how these interactions are regulated. Mouse muscle stem cell lines lacking emerin are used to interrogate emerin function during muscle stem cell differentiation. Expression of emerin mutants in these emerin-null muscle stem cells will be used to look for rescue of any defects. Commercially available human cell lines are used to interrogate emerin function in nuclear structure, including human induced pluripotent stem cell lines from the Allen Institute. Commercially available human breast cancer cell lines, non-cancerous cell lines, and control fibroblasts will be used for these studies.
      e. **Risk Assessment:** Biosafety Level 2
      f. **Personnel Training:** Required laboratory personnel training: General Laboratory, Biological Laboratory, Hazardous Biological, and Shipping
      g. **NIH Guidelines Sections for Research with Recombinant or Synthetic Nucleic Acid Molecules:** Section III-D-3, III-E-1
      h. **Committee Deliberation and Motion**: Minor modification with administrative review:
         i. Clarifications on Human Source Materials Survey
         ii. Remove indications of RG1
         iii. Clarification on risk assessment
         iv. Clarification of BSL2 for human breast cancer cell lines
         v. Clarification on viral vector form

      Vote: 10 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained

B. Rood Lab - Amendment
   a. **PI**: Benjamin Rood
   b. **Project Title and #:** Neural circuits underlying social behavior, #64
   c. NIH Sponsored: Yes
   d. Summary: An amendment to add viral vectors. The lab seeks to understand the neurobiological mechanisms underlying social behavior. In particular, the research focuses on the role of neurons that produce serotonin and those that express vasopressin 1A receptors in controlling or modulating social interactions. A variety of methods is used to examine social behavior neural circuits at multiple levels.
   e. **Risk Assessment:** Biosafety Level 2
   f. **Personnel Training:** Required laboratory personnel training: General Laboratory, Biological Laboratory, r/sDNA, and Hazardous Biological
   g. **NIH Guidelines Sections for Research with Recombinant or Synthetic Nucleic Acid Molecules:** F-Appendix C-VII, F-Appendix C-V-III, Section III-D-4-a, Section III-D-4-c(2), Section III-E-3
   h. **Committee Deliberation and Motion**: Requires modifications with administrative review:
      i. Correction of supplier name

   Vote: 10 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained

C. Langford Lab - Amendment and New Project
   a. **PI**: Dianne Teresa Langford
   b. **Project Title and #:**
      i. HIV induces AQP4 dysfunction and aberrant waste clearance from brain leading to worsening HAND, #34
      ii. HIV and cocaine use leads to loss of astrocyte neurotrophic support and impaired lipid homeostasis in the brain, #116
   c. NIH Sponsored: Yes
   d. Summary: The lab focus is neurodegeneration and how HIV can infect the human brain where it can damage cells such as neurons, astrocytes or microglia. Unfortunately, even though the virus in most other parts of the body is controlled by antiretroviral medication, the drugs cannot enter the brain as effectively as other parts of the body. One of the harmful effects of HIV infection of the brain is the generation of misfolded or abnormal proteins. During disease, these proteins can accumulate in the brain leading to negative changes in mental ability. Normally the brain can clear out harmful waste products such as these, but during diseases like HIV infection and Alzheimer's disease the machinery in the brain that usually cleans out these toxic proteins is slowed down. The lab studies a protein called aquaporin 4 (AQP4) that helps in clearing these toxic proteins.
   e. **Risk Assessment:** Biosafety Level 2
   f. **Personnel Training:** Required laboratory personnel training: General Laboratory, Biological Laboratory, r/sDNA, and Hazardous Biological
   g. **NIH Guidelines Sections for Research with Recombinant or Synthetic Nucleic Acid Molecules:** Section III-D-4, Section III-D-4-a, Section III-D-4-b, Section III-E-3
   h. **Committee Deliberation and Motion**: Requires modifications with DMR review:
      i. Clarification on use of cell lines
      ii. Add activity for room location
      iii. Clarification on risk assessment
      iv. Additional information on disposal of infected cells
      v. Clarification on Microbial Agents Survey

vi. Clarification on Recombinant Nucleic Acid Survey
Vote: 10 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained

IX. For the Good of the Committee 12:08 PM

X. Meeting Adjournment: The IBC Chair moved to adjourn the meeting 12:13 PM.