

**Rowan University
Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) Meeting Minutes**

Meeting Date: November 7, 2025
Meeting Time: 11:41 AM – 12:57 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. E.M.	Animal Expert	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

Guests: Ms. S.S. (Notetaker)

Quorum: The committee has ten voting members, and seven members were initially present and then eight members at 11:31 AM.

- I. Call to Order and Conflicts of Interest
The IBC Chair called the meeting to order at 11:04 AM.
- II. Review and approval of agenda
The November 7, 2025 agenda was approved unanimously.
- III. Review and approval of prior meeting minutes
Motion: Approve the October 3, 2025 meeting minutes as written.
Votes: 6 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 - Reminder for members to identify any conflicts of interest and to submit any concerns for the Chair to present to the IO.
- VI. Biological Safety Officer (BSO) / Environmental Health & Safety (EH&S) Report
A. Report is on Google Drive. Personnel training courses were completed both on CITI and in person and 67 labs inspected.
- VII. Review of Prior Business
A. Pandey Lab - Approved October 16, 2025
- VIII. New Business
A. Vernengo Lab Biological Registration - New
 - a. **PI:** Andrea Vernengo
 - b. **Project Title and #:**
 - i. 3D Bioprinting, #30
 - c. **NIH Sponsored:** Yes
 - d. **Summary:** The project focuses on two related health challenges: slow-healing wounds and hard-to-treat bone cancer (chondrosarcoma) and how special support cells called mesenchymal stem cells (MSCs) send out helpful signals that influence healing or, in the case of cancer, tumor growth.
 - e. **Risk Assessment:** Biosafety Level 2
 - f. **Personnel Training:** Required laboratory personnel training completed: General Laboratory, Biological Laboratory, and Hazardous Biological.
 - g. **NIH Guidelines Sections for Research with Recombinant or Synthetic Nucleic Acid Molecules:** N/A
 - h. **Committee Deliberation and Motion:** Requires modifications with administrative review of clarifications and additional details:
 - i. Add missing items to Bio Materials.

Vote: 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained

E.M. joined at 11:31 AM

D. Shyla Lab Biological Registration

- a. **PI:** Natalia Hyson
- b. **Project Title and #:**
 - i. Genetically modified [REDACTED] #106
 - ii. rDNA - cloning, #108
 - iii. Transfections, #109
- c. **NIH Sponsored:** Yes
- d. **Summary:**
 - i. The lab uses [REDACTED] to investigate the evolution of early developmental processes and morphological adaptation in amniotes (reptiles and mammals) with a long-term goal of informing the study of human disease.
- e. **Risk Assessment:** Biosafety Level 1
- f. **Personnel Training:** Required laboratory personnel training completed: General Laboratory, Biological Laboratory, r/sDNA, and Hazardous Biological.
- g. **NIH Guidelines Sections for Research with Recombinant or Synthetic Nucleic Acid Molecules:**
 - i. Section III-D-4
 - ii. Section III-D-4-a
 - iii. Section III-F-1
 - iv. Section III-F-2
 - v. Section III-F-8
- h. **Committee Deliberation and Motion:** Requires modifications with administrative review.
 - i. Describe spill, exposure, and scratch or bit procedures
 - ii. Clarification on breeding of [REDACTED]
 - iii. EH&S clearance for room under renovations
 - iv. Description of room activity
 - v. Clarification of transgenic eggs
 - vi. Inclusion of all vectors
 - vii. Clarification on Recombinant or Synthetic Nucleic Acid Molecules Survey

Vote: 8 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained

12:11 PM M.F. recused

12:21 PM M.F. returned

E. Chandler Lab Biological Registration Amendment

- i. **PI:** Daniel Chandler
- j. **Project Title and #:**
 - i. Stress-induced locus coeruleus dysfunction as a member of opioid abuse, #50
- k. **NIH Sponsored:** Yes
- l. **Summary:**
 - i. The addition of viral vectors to activate receptors to promote stress resilience.
- m. **Risk Assessment:** Biosafety Level 2
- n. **Personnel Training:** Required laboratory personnel training completed: General Laboratory, Biological Laboratory, r/sDNA, and Hazardous Biological.

- o. **NIH Guidelines Sections for Research with Recombinant or Synthetic Nucleic Acid Molecules:**
 - i. Section III-D-4
 - ii. Section III-D-4-a
 - iii. Section III-E-3
- p. **Committee Deliberation and Motion:** Requires modifications with DMR review.
 - i. Provide viral vector maps
 - ii. Lab safety to include face shield and clarification on BSL1 & BSL2
 - iii. Risk assessment change
 - iv. Clarification on Recombinant or Synthetic Nucleic Acid Molecules Survey
 - v. Add names and experience of personnel
 - vi. Clarification on Viral Vector Registration forms

Vote: 8 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained

- F. Fakira Lab Biological Registration Amendment
 - q. **PI:** Amanda Fakira
 - r. **Project Title and #:**
 - i. The role of the PEN-GPR83 neuropeptide system in pain, reward, and anxiety, #84
 - ii. Identify the neuro-biological functions of novel G-protein coupled receptors, #85
 - s. **NIH Sponsored: Yes**
 - t. **Summary:**
 - i. The Fakira Lab investigates targets involved in the interactions of opiate-induced pain relief, substance abuse, and anxiety. The lab has a long-term goal to identify novel therapeutic targets to alleviate opioid dependence, withdrawal and addiction while maintaining opioid mediated pain relief. The lab is investigating a recently de-orphanized G-protein coupled receptor in the role of reward and pain processing, and stress and anxiety responses known to impact pain and addiction.
 - u. **Risk Assessment:** Biosafety Level 2
 - v. **Personnel Training:** Required laboratory personnel training completed: General Laboratory, Biological Laboratory, r/sDNA, and Hazardous Biological.
 - w. **NIH Guidelines Sections for Research with Recombinant or Synthetic Nucleic Acid Molecules:**
 - i. F-Appendix C-VII
 - ii. F-appendix C-VIII
 - iii. Section III-D-1
 - iv. Section III-D-4
 - v. Section III-D-4-a
 - vi. Section III-D-4-b
 - vii. Section III-D-4-c-(2)
 - viii. Section III-E-3
 - x. **Committee Deliberation and Motion:** Requires modifications with DMR review.
 - i. Provide viral vector maps
 - ii. Completion of Viral Vector Registration forms
 - iii. Description of husbandry by lab research team
 - iv. Risk assessment consistency with safety levels
 - v. Reference in accordance to DEA for controlled substance
 - vi. Clarification of cell lines in Source Materials

Vote: 8 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained

IX. For the Good of the Committee 12:50 PM

X. Meeting Adjournment: The IBC Chair moved to adjourn the meeting 12:57 PM.