University of Vermont
Institutional Biosafety Committee
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RESEARCH PROTECTIONS OFFICE
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IBC Meeting Minutes
Institutional Biosafety Committee
Hybrid – HSRF 200 and Online
1/13/2026 1:00 PM

MEETING TIME RECORDS

Called to Order: 1:01 PM
Meeting Adjourned: 2:48 PM

MEMBER ATTENDANCE

Name of Regular/Alternate Member	Status (Member or Alternate)	Substituting For
Sean Diehl	Member, Chair	
Robert Kelm	Member, Associate Chair	
Sherri Evans	Alternate	N/A
Christopher Huston	Member	
Donna Silver	Alternate	N/A
Maria Sonia Godoy Tundidor	Member, BSO	
Allison Falcone	Alternate	N/A
Joseph Clayton (V)	Member	
Jon Ramsey	Member	
Emily Bruce	Member	
Joshua Woolsey	Member	
Jason Botten	Member	
Nicole Podnecky (V)	Member	
Joyce Oetjen (V)	Alternate	Leigh Knodler

IBC Staff Present: Linda Mei and Abbey Dattilio

(V)=Virtual Attendance

MEMBER NOTES

Dr. Diehl left the meeting at 1:20 PM.
Dr. Podnecky left the meeting at 1:34 PM.

Guest Evans left the meeting at 1:34 PM, returned at 1:35 PM, left at 1:59 PM, and returned at 2:01 PM.

QUORUM INFORMATION

Number of IBC members on the roster: 12
Number required for quorum: 7

OTHER INDIVIDUALS IN ATTENDANCE

Tom Kellogg (EHS), Dorian Evans (V) (EHS), and Karrie Lahue (OACM)

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

At 1:14 PM, there was consideration of the minutes from the November 11, 2025 meeting. Motion to approve by Member Botten and Member Ramsey (10, 0, 1) as written. Dr. Diehl abstained from voting.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Committee members with a conflict of interest related to the review of a specific registration or registration amendment may not be involved in the review or approval of a project in which he or she has been or expects to be engaged or has a direct financial interest.

REVIEW OF PRIOR AND ONGOING IBC BUSINESS

Research Protections Office:

1. The Committee was introduced to two new members, Drs. Joseph Clayton and Nicole Podnecky.
2. Interviews for the research biosafety officer position have been scheduled for the end of January.

Environmental Health and Safety:

1. Dorian Evans was introduced as the new director of EHS.
2. The Committee was informed that Maria Sonia Godoy Tundidor's last day will be January 14, 2026.

NEW IBC REGISTRATIONS AND AMENDMENTS FOR REVIEW

1. Review of REG202500018

Title:	Symeonides Lab
Investigator:	Menelaos Symeonides
Submission ID	REG202500018
Funding:	Internal Funding

Committee Discussion:

The Committee voted to defer (table) the initial submission at the November 11, 2025 meeting due to a lack of clarity and details about the procedures as written. The Committee noted significant biosafety issues

regarding the proposed PPE, training, and procedures. The investigator has acknowledged the concerns and has resubmitted the submission for consideration, however the Committee still remains concerned with the proposed training of personnel, engineering controls and procedures, and facilities and equipment as written in the registration and SOPs. As such, the Committee has voted to defer (table) the resubmission. The Committee has stipulated that in additon to the clarifications from the reviewers, the investigator must address the findings from the on-site visit conducted by the biosafety officer on November 10, 2025. The Committee has requested the following:
- The findings from the on-site visit conducted by the biosafety officer have been reconciled and shared with the investigator. The investigator must address all the findings.
- The investigator must clarify that they're responsible for providing hands-on training, proficiency assessment, and ongoing monitoring of new personnel working with HIV. Any mention of junior laboratory members or students being delegated with this responsibility must be removed.
- Personnel must comply with all BSL-2+ work practices and regulations.
- Personnel must consistently wear the appropriate task-specific PPE.
- Signage language in common spaces must be included in the registration and SOPs.
- The full profile of risks associated with generating VSV-pseudotyped HIV, and an exposure response plan must be included in the registration, SOPs, and BARD.

Motion: Deferred

Biosafety Containment Level: BSL-2

NIH Guidelines Section: Sections III-D, III-D-1, III-E, III-E-1, III-F, III-F-1, and III-F-2

Training: All required IBC trainings have been completed by personnel, however the Committee stipulated that the investigator must be responsible for providing hands-on training, proficiency assessment, and ongoing monitoring of new personnel working with HIV. Any mention of junior laboratory members or students being delegated with this responsibility must be removed.

Additional Safety Requirements: An on-site risk assessment has been conducted by the biosafety officer, and the findings from the visit will be reconciled and shared with the investigator as part of the memo.

Votes:

For: 9

Against: 0
Recused: 0
Abstained: 0

Vote Comments/Conflicts of Interest:
Drs. Diehl and Podnecky left the meeting before voting of this submission. Dr. Oetjen voted in place of Dr. Knodler.

2. Review of AMEND202500068

Title:	Amendment for REG201900079
Investigator:	Jason Botten
Submission ID	AMEND202500068
Funding:	National Institutes of Health/NIH; Natl Inst Allergy Infectious/NIAID/NIH; National Institutes of Health/NIH; National Institutes of Health/NIH; Defense Advance Rsrch Projects/DARPA/DOD; Internal Funding; National Institutes of Health/NIH

Committee Discussion:
The amendment describes the addition of field work to conduct viral surveillance in wild mice, with the aim of detecting natural infections with LCMV or Sin Nombre-like hantaviruses in local rodents. The investigator has provided an SOP that details how the trapping and field work will be conducted. The Committee noted the submission was clear, and only required minor clarifications from the investigator. The following will be communicated to the investigator:
- Please clarify the potential presence of hantaviruses in the new field work study. Please include details on potential exposure and consequences in relation to hantaviruses.
- Please clarify on the language of when the traps will be checked on by personnel.
- Please provide additional details on the transport of live wild rodents. Please clarify how the animals will be secured in the designated research vehicle and how the vehicle will be decontaminated.
- All peronnel must take the CITI Wildlife Research training.
- Please update the SOP to reflect the reviewers' comments and recommendations.

Motion: Modifications required

Biosafety Containment Level: BSL-2

NIH Guidelines Section: Section III-D

Training: Personnel will need to take the CITI Wildlife Research training.

Additional Safety Requirements: The personnel will need to consider practicing restraint of rodents for the proposed field work.

Votes:

For:	8
Against:	0
Recused:	0
Abstained:	1

Vote Comments/Conflicts of Interest:
Drs. Diehl and Podnecky left the meeting before voting of this submission. Dr. Botten abstained from voting. Dr. Oetjen voted in place of Dr. Knodler.

REVIEW OF INCIDENTS

None.

REVIEW OF NONCOMPLIANCE

None.

COMPLETED INSPECTIONS SINCE LAST MEETING

None.