



Institutional Biosafety Committee

Meeting Minutes

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Institution	Montclair State University, Montclair, NJ	
Meeting Date	June 29, 2026	
Meeting Time	11:00am-12:00pm	
Meeting Type	Virtual meeting via Zoom	
IBC Member Attendees	1. Peter Hosick, Chairperson 2. Gena Coffey, Biosafety Officer 3. Kimberly Blatt, Director of Research Compliance 4. Sean Fitzgerald, Local nonaffiliated member (Hackensack Meridian Health) 5. Rosemary Lipala, IBC Member/Animal Expert/Lab Rep <i>[left the meeting at 11:40am]</i> 6. Elena Petroff, IBC Member/Researcher 7. Nathan Rigel, Local nonaffiliated member (Kean University) Membership updates: • Elena Petroff will step down from the IBC as of 6/30/2026. The committee thanked Dr. Petroff for her many years of service, including a term as IBC Chair. • Christos Suriano's member appointment will begin on 7/1/2026. Dr. Suriano is a faculty member in the Biology department. • Marybeth Duffy's member appointment will begin on 7/1/2026. Ms. Duffy is a faculty member in the School of Nursing.	
IBC Members Absent	1. Kevin Bilyk, IBC Member/Researcher	
Quorum	The IBC has 8 voting members, and 5 members are required to conduct business.	<i>Note late arrival/early departure of voting members and any impact on the quorum.</i>
Other Attendees	1. Carrie Laset, Compliance Coordinator	
Call to Order	The IBC Chair called the meeting to order at 11:02am.	

Conflicts of Interest	The IBC Chair reminded all members present to identify any conflicts of interest as each registration is reviewed.	<i>Committee members with a conflict of interest related to the review of a specific registration 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.</i>
Review and approval of previous meeting minutes	<u>May 18, 2026 Meeting Minutes</u> Motion: A motion was made by GC and seconded by RL to Approve the minutes as written. Vote: Approved with 7 members voting in favor, 0 against and 0 abstentions Discussion: None Changes to be made: None	
Review of Prior Business	1. The IBC Coordinator informed the committee of the following information about Dr. Suriano's protocol, 2026_IBC_0041: ○ The IACUC reviewed Dr. Suriano's IACUC submission and asked for changes to the IBC submission regarding BSL and a few other minor clarifications. ○ The PI revised the IBC protocol per the IACUC's comments and resubmitted it for review by the IBC. ○ The IBC had voted to approve this protocol pending minor changes at the May 18, 2026 meeting, but the approval letter was not sent to the PI. ○ The IBC will re-vote on this revised protocol at today's meeting (June 29, 2026).	<i>Summary of any prior business, such as:</i> ● <i>Actions taken on behalf of the IBC between meetings such verifying conditions have been met for approval.</i> ● <i>Updates on actions taken regarding incidents or follow up on an injury, discussion of remediation/retraining efforts.</i> ● <i>Details of building maintenance.</i> ● <i>Activities pertaining to prior safety discussions.</i> ● <i>Follow up on correspondence between IBC and NIH OSP.</i>
IBC Registration Review (New IBC Registrations/Renewals/Amendments)	1. New IBC Registration (initial review and approval at May 2026 meeting, but changes made per IACUC request - re-vote required): PI Name: Christos Suriano IBC Registration Number: 2026_IBC_0041 Title: Development of nano-based fluorophore delivery systems for optical imaging and image-guided surgery for cancer Project Overview: Surgery has a key role in the management of many types of brain cancers. In fact, the completion of surgical resection is a key prognostic factor in brain cancer treatment. This requires surgeons to identify residual tumors as well as to margin the proximity of the tumor to adjacent normal tissue. Subjective assessments, such as palpation or visual observations, are commonly used by oncology surgeons during resection to differentiate cancer lesions from normal tissue, which could potentially result in either an incomplete tumor resection, or accidental removal of normal tissue. Moreover, malignant brain tumors are even more difficult to distinguish from normal brain tissue, and resecting noncancerous tissue may create neurological	<i>Project Overview content:</i> ● <i>Agent name (e.g., organism, host vector system, etc.).</i> ● <i>Agent characteristics of note, (e.g. virulence, pathogenicity, antibiotic susceptibility, environmental stability).</i> ● <i>Sources and nature of the nucleic acid sequences (e.g., species, structural transgene, oncogene, toxin).</i> ● <i>Summary host(s) and types of vector(s) if used</i> ● <i>Modifications (e.g., deletions, insertions, mutations to attenuate, or render replication incompetent) and note of any</i>

	defects after surgery. Therefore, utilizing an intraoperative, real-time guidance technique in the operating room is essential to quickly optimize the resection margin in brain tumors ultimately improving surgical outcomes. Note: Dr. Suriano submitted an IACUC protocol for review (IACUC number 2026-113). It was reviewed by the IACUC at the meetings on May 27, 2026 and June 24, 2026. At both meetings, the IACUC voted to withhold approval pending revisions to be reviewed at the next full committee meeting. Applicable sections of the NIH Guidelines: – Section III-D-4. Experiments Involving Whole Animals This section covers experiments involving deliberate transfer of recombinant or synthetic nucleic acid molecules, DNA or RNA derived from recombinant or synthetic nucleic acid molecules, or recombinant or synthetic nucleic acid molecule-modified microorganisms into whole animals and experiments involving whole animals in which the animal's genome has been altered by recombinant or synthetic nucleic acid molecules, or nucleic acids derived therefrom, into the germ-line (transgenic animals). Experiments involving gene drive modified animals or experiments involving viable recombinant or synthetic nucleic acid molecule-modified microorganisms, except for viruses that are only vertically transmitted, may not be conducted at BL1-N containment. A minimum containment of BL2 or BL2-N is required (see Section III-D8) <i>The two struck-through sections below were noted in the May meeting minutes, but have been removed due to change in biosafety level:</i> – Section III-E-3. Experiments Involving Transgenic Rodents – Section III-E-3-a. Section III-F. Exempt Experiments Section III-F-1 Those synthetic nucleic acids that: (1) can neither replicate nor generate nucleic acids that can replicate in any living cell (e.g., oligonucleotides or other synthetic nucleic acids that do not contain an origin of replication or contain elements known to interact with either DNA or RNA polymerase), and (2) are not designed to introduce a stable genetic modification, and (3) do not produce a toxin that is lethal for vertebrates at an LD50 of less than 100 nanograms per kilogram body weight. If a synthetic nucleic acid is deliberately transferred into one or more human research participants and meets the criteria of Section III-C, it is not exempt under this Section. Section III-F-4 Those that consist entirely of nucleic acids from a prokaryotic host, including its indigenous plasmids or viruses when propagated only in that host (or a closely related strain of the same species), or when transferred to another host by well-established physiological means. Identified risks and risk mitigation measures: • A biosafety cabinet will be used during aerosol-inducing procedures. Training: ➢ CITI training required for IBC protocol - Initial Biosafety, OSHA Bloodborne Pathogens, NIH Recombinant DNA,	• supporting documentation (published or unpublished data). • Types of experimental manipulations that will be employed • (e.g., tissue culture, animal work). • Proposed biosafety containment levels at which each of these • operations will occur. • Any other pertinent information. <i>NIH Guidelines notes:</i> <i>Cite which applicable section(s) of the NIH Guidelines (Section III-A thru III-E) the research falls under. If the research is not subject to or exempt from the NIH Guidelines indicate why. Such discussion may be included in the minutes at the institution's discretion</i> <i>Training:</i> <i>Document completion of required institutional level training as well as detailed laboratory or protocol specific training.</i> • Basic Laboratory Biosafety • Safe sharps handling <i>Detail any additional IBC recommended training, e.g., for use of specialized equipment or higher hazard work</i> • Protocol/Agent specific biosafety training • Animal handling (restraint, injections, primate safety etc.) • High containment laboratory proficiency training <i>Staff will be trained in laboratory safety practices, including sharps safety precautions, prior to performing injections in mice. All required trainings are complete for all lab staff listed in the registration, or IBC approval is granted pending verification by the BSO that all staff listed in the registration have received required training</i> <i>Occ Health:</i> • Vaccination requirements • Respiratory protection • Periodic review of any medical surveillance • Post-exposure response procedures
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Animal Biosafety - PI and external collaborator have been informed of these trainings and they are in progress (collaborator has completed all). IACUC and IBC approval letters will note that approval is contingent upon completion.

- CITI training required for IACUC protocol - Lab/Vivarium Researchers, Working with Mice, Animal Biosafety, Reducing Pain and Distress in Laboratory Mice and Rats - PI and external collaborator have been informed of these trainings and they are in progress. IACUC and IBC approval letters will note that approval is contingent upon completion.

Occupational Health requirements (if applicable): Occ Health clearance required for IACUC protocol - PI and external collaborator have been informed of this requirement and it is in progress. IACUC and IBC approval letters will note that approval is contingent upon clearance.

Biosafety Level: BSL2

IBC Vote:

- **Motion:** A motion to Approve for 5 years, pending clarification on where work will be done, with revisions to be reviewed and approved by the Biosafety Officer, was made by PH and seconded by RL.
- **Vote:** Approval Pending Clarifications was unanimous with 7 members voting in favor, 0 against and 0 abstentions
Conflict(s) of interest: None
- **Discussion:**
 - The IBC discussed the need for the PI to be explicit about where different parts of the experiment will take place.
- **Stipulations/Changes requested:**
 - The flow sheet notes "FDU or MSU" to describe where work using the hood, work bench and biosafety cabinet will occur. Please be more explicit about where the work will take place at each point.
 - Currently, only Montclair room numbers are given as experimental locations in the protocol form. If work will be done at FDU, please list those room locations.
 - If specimens will be transported between campuses, please include the following information in the flow sheet:
 - How are they being transported?
 - How will they be packaged/labeled?
 - What safety measures will be put in place?

2. New IBC Registration (tabled at May 2026 meeting):

PI Name: Dr. Mitra Britton

IBC Registration Number: 2026_IBC_0042

Title: Microbiome and Genomic Profiling in Auditory Conditions: A Preliminary

Project Overview: This study investigates relationships between gut health and auditory conditions in an MSU student and faculty population. Phase 1 involves an online health screening survey (500–1,000 participants). Phase 2 enrolls eligible participants (approximately 300) who self-collect stool and saliva samples using Zymo Research DNA/RNA Shield Fecal Collection Kits mailed to their homes. The Zymo DNA/RNA Shield reagent chemically inactivates pathogens at the point of collection. Sealed, labeled kits are returned by mail to the PI's audiology laboratory at MSU, stored at -86 degrees C (USA Lab UCF-2-86-UL freezer), and subsequently transferred to a core facility for 16S rRNA sequencing and genomic analysis. No culturing, aerosolization, or live pathogen manipulation occurs in the laboratory. All human biospecimens are classified and handled as Other Potentially Infectious Materials (OPIM) under BSL-2 precautions. Study is funded by PI's MSU startup package and will generate preliminary data for future NIH R01 funding.

Note: Dr. Britton has been instructed to submit an IRB protocol for review of the human subjects component of this research.

Applicable sections of the NIH Guidelines:

Discussion was tabled until the next meeting after more information is provided by the PI.

Identified risks and risk mitigation measures: Discussion was tabled until the next meeting after more information is provided by the PI.

Training:

- CITI training required for IBC protocol - Initial Biosafety, OSHA Bloodborne Pathogens, Shipping and Transport of Regulated Biological Materials - PI has been informed of these trainings and they are in progress.
- CITI training required for IRB protocol - HSR Students/Faculty Biomedical - completed 10/3/2025

Occupational Health requirements (if applicable): Discussion was tabled until the next meeting after more information is provided by the PI.

Biosafety Level: BSL2

IBC Vote:

- **Motion:** A motion to Table the protocol was made by PH and seconded by RL.
- **Vote:** The decision to Table was unanimous with 7 members voting in favor, 0 against and 0 abstentions
Conflict(s) of interest: None
- **Discussion:**
 - The IBC discussed several components of the

study that remain undecided, particularly the type of kits the PI plans to use, where the kits will be stored once received and the parameters that need to be in place for the frequency of shipments to the external facility.

- **Stipulations/Changes requested:**

Please add the following information to the **flow sheet and to the protocol form where applicable:**

1. Determine and describe the kits that you plan to use.
2. Note exactly where at the university you will receive the shipments.
3. Describe how you will transport the kits from the receiving location to the lab where they will be stored (will they remain sealed?). Include the method of containment, as well as the method of transporting them.
4. For storage in the freezer, the IBC prefers that you use a container rather than plastic bags.
5. Once you have confirmed a lab with a freezer that you can use:
 - a. Describe how often you will need access to the freezer and for how long.
 - b. Parameters around best times for drop-off of the kits will need to be discussed with the cooperating lab.
6. Determine and describe the requirements for shipping the biospecimens. You mention dry ice in the protocol. Are there other considerations, such as insulated containment?

Note from the IBC: Until you have secured external funding to make the upgrades to 1515 Broad St. necessary to do the lab work you are requesting, you will likely have to collaborate with an existing lab on campus for use of their freezer. It is your responsibility as PI to locate a lab. The IBC recommends conducting this work as a pilot study before making structural decisions and equipment purchases. Please reach out to the IBC Chair or Biosafety Officer with any questions.

3. New IBC Registration:

PI Name: Dr. Meiyin Wu

IBC Registration Number: 2026_IBC_0043

Title: Quantifying Microcystins in Water

Project Overview: The project is to assess the conditions of harmful algal blooms in New Jersey waters by quantifying microcystins in waters using LC-MS-MS. The ultimate goal of the project is to identify environmental variables/triggers of harmful algal bloom events and potential solutions to mitigate the blooms.

Applicable sections of the NIH Guidelines:

Discussion was tabled until the next meeting after more information is provided by the PI.

Identified risks and risk mitigation measures: Discussion was

tabled until the next meeting after more information is provided by the PI.

Training:

- CITI training required for IBC protocol - Initial Biosafety - current for Meiyin Wu; personnel have been informed of these trainings and they are in progress.

Occupational Health requirements (if applicable): Discussion was tabled until the next meeting after more information is provided by the PI.

Biosafety Level: BSL2

IBC Vote:

- **Motion:** A motion to Table the protocol was made by PH and seconded by EP.
- **Vote:** The decision to Table was unanimous with 6 members voting in favor, 0 against and 0 abstentions
Conflict(s) of interest: None
- **Discussion:**
 - The IBC discussed that the protocol was incomplete. Microcystins are toxins, though they are not pathogenic. The IBC office will inform the PI which section(s) need to be completed so that the committee has all of the information to make an informed decision about the work that is being proposed.
 - The committee also discussed revising the wording in the protocol template for work with toxins that may not be pathogenic.
- **Stipulations/Changes requested:**
 1. On page 3, please check off, "Possession, Use, and Transfer of Select Agents, Toxins, High Consequence Livestock or Plant Pathogens."
The definition of toxin from the USDA:
Toxin.
The toxic material or product of plants, animals, microorganisms (including, but not limited to, bacteria, viruses, fungi, or protozoa), or infectious substances, or a recombinant or synthesized molecule, whatever their origin and method of production, and includes:
(1) Any poisonous substance or biological product that may be engineered as a result of biotechnology produced by a living organism; or
(2) Any poisonous isomer or biological product, homolog, or derivative of such a substance.
 2. Fill out the entire section beginning on page 10, "Pathogenic Microorganisms."
 3. On page 18, please only check off in the chart that the biosafety cabinet is "Class II Type A2."
 4. On page 29 for personnel Michael Rose, please enter the date 8/28/2025 for "Date of last lab safety training."

	5. Michael Rose has to register for a CITI account and take Initial Biosafety Training. 6. Xiona Li has to take Initial Biosafety Training. 7. David Hsu has to register for a CITI account and take Initial Biosafety Training. 4. New IBC Registration (student project): PI Name: Dr. Aishwarya Deshpande IBC Registration Number: 2026_IBC_0044 Title: Antibiotic Resistance and Microbial Community in Agricultural Soils Project Overview: In this research, we will be collecting soil samples from a farm in NJ. The objectives of this project are 1) to compare antibiotic resistance genes (ARGs) and microbial community profile between barren soil (which has not been planted) and healthy fertilized soil which has been planted, and 2) analyze the effect of biochar on ARGs and microbial community by comparing biochar treated and untreated soils. This project will generate meaningful societal and scientific impacts by advancing sustainable agricultural practices and workforce development. For the farming community, results will provide evidence-based guidance on soil management strategies that enhance microbiome diversity and resilience. Applicable sections of the NIH Guidelines: – Section III-F. Exempt Experiments - Section III-F-4 Those that consist entirely of nucleic acids from a prokaryotic host, including its indigenous plasmids or viruses when propagated only in that host (or a closely related strain of the same species), or when transferred to another host by well-established physiological means. Identified risks and risk mitigation measures: Biosafety cabinet, PPE Training: ➤ CITI training required for IBC protocol - Initial Biosafety - current for Dr. Deshpande and all personnel; Shipping and Transport of Regulated Biological Materials current for PI Occupational Health requirements (if applicable): n/a Biosafety Level: BSL1 IBC Vote: ● Motion: A motion to Approve the protocol for 5 years was made by PH and seconded by NR. ● Vote: Approval was unanimous with 6 members voting in favor, 0 against and 0 abstentions. Conflict(s) of interest: None	
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- **Discussion:** none
- **Stipulations/Changes requested:** None

5. New IBC Registration (student project):

PI Name: Dr. Aishwarya Deshpande

IBC Registration Number: 2026_IBC_0045

Title: Biodiversity patterns of extracellular DNA in environmental soil samples

Project Overview: In this project, we will be collecting soil samples from urban woodlots sites, including one site at MSU. The objectives of this project are 1) to optimize protocol for extracting extracellular DNA (eDNA) and intracellular DNA (iDNA) from soil samples and calculate the recovery percentage of each fraction and 2) to compare microbial community between eDNA and iDNA using Next Generation sequencing. The long-term impact of this work is that it will help assess biodiversity patterns in eDNA and iDNA, thereby supporting environmental monitoring efforts through the identification of potential genetic signatures and rare species in extracellular DNA samples.

Applicable sections of the NIH Guidelines:

– Section III-F. Exempt Experiments - Section III-F-4

Those that consist entirely of nucleic acids from a prokaryotic host, including its indigenous plasmids or viruses when propagated only in that host (or a closely related strain of the same species), or when transferred to another host by well-established physiological means.

Identified risks and risk mitigation measures: Biosafety cabinet, PPE

Training:

- CITI training required for IBC protocol - Initial Biosafety - current for Dr. Deshpande and all personnel

Occupational Health requirements (if applicable): n/a

Biosafety Level: BSL1

IBC Vote:

- **Motion:** A motion to Approve the protocol for 5 years was made by GC and seconded by NR.
- **Vote:** Approval was unanimous with 6 members voting in favor, 0 against and 0 abstentions.
Conflict(s) of interest: None
- **Discussion:** none
- **Stipulations/Changes requested:** None

Inspections/ Ongoing Oversight	– The IACUC will inspect Suriano spaces before use with animals. – When Dr. Britton confirms an alternative location, the Biosafety Officer/EH&S will need to inspect the freezer and designated lab space for the processing and storage of the kits. – The Biosafety Officer/EH&S has inspected the Wu and Deshpande labs.	<i>Results of Inspections for the labs granted approval conditional upon passing the inspection and correction of all deficiencies discussed at a prior meeting</i> <i>Section IV-B-2-b-(5) of the NIH Guidelines requires IBCs to periodically review to ensure compliance with the NIH Guidelines.</i>
Review of Incidents	None to report	<i>The NIH Guidelines require that significant incidents, violations and research-related accidents and illnesses be reported to NIH OSP.</i> <i>For information regarding incident reporting requirements please refer to the Incident Reporting FAQs.</i>
New Business/ Additional Topics	New business: • The IBC office made a minor update to the IBC protocol template with instructions for the flowsheet attachment. • The Biosafety Officer and the Office of Research Compliance have been working on revisions to the Policy on Occupational Health and Animal Research; when finalized, it will be reviewed by the IACUC and presented to the IBC. • The Chair, the Biosafety Officer and the Office of Research Compliance are discussing the plan for updates to the Biosafety Manual.	<i>Note any new or additional topics discussed by the IBC.</i> <i>Institutional Policy Review/ Updates -Document IBC vote as above as applicable</i> <i>Section IV-B-2-b-(6) of the NIH Guidelines requires IBCs to adopt emergency plans covering personnel contamination, research-related illness, accidental spills, and loss of containment. The IBC should approve new or amended policies by formal vote.</i>
IBC Training	There is no training scheduled for this meeting.	<i>Note any training conducted for the IBC members during meeting.</i>
Public Comments	There were no public comments.	
Adjournment	Upcoming IBC meeting dates: • July and August meetings will be scheduled as needed. • Calendar invites have been sent for meetings scheduled for the 2026-27 academic year. The Chair adjourned the meeting at 11:56am.	

Minutes submitted by: Carrie Laset, IBC Coordinator

Minutes approved by: Peter Hosick, IBC Chair and Kim Blatt, Director of Research Compliance