

# MONTCLAIR

## STATE UNIVERSITY

### Institutional Biosafety Committee Meeting Minutes

		Notes
<b>Institution</b>	Montclair State University, Montclair, NJ	
<b>Meeting Date</b>	May 18, 2026	
<b>Meeting Time</b>	11:00am-12:00pm	
<b>Meeting Type</b>	Virtual meeting via Zoom	
<b>IBC Member Attendees</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Peter Hosick, Chairperson</li> <li>Gena Coffey, Biosafety Officer</li> <li>Kimberly Blatt, Director of Research Compliance</li> <li>Rosemary Lipala, IBC Member/Animal Expert/Lab Rep</li> <li>Nathan Rigel, Local nonaffiliated member (Kean University)</li> </ol> <p><b>Membership updates:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Elena Petroff will step down from the IBC as of 6/30/2026.</li> <li>Christos Suriano's member appointment will begin on 7/1/2026.</li> </ul>	
<b>IBC Members Absent</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kevin Bilyk, IBC Member/Researcher</li> <li>Sean Fitzgerald, Local nonaffiliated member (Hackensack Meridian Health)</li> <li>Elena Petroff, IBC Member/Researcher</li> </ol>	
<b>Quorum</b>	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>
<b>Other Attendees</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Carrie Laset, Compliance Coordinator</li> </ol>	
<b>Call to Order</b>	The IBC Chair called the meeting to order at 11:02am.	
<b>Conflicts of Interest</b>	The IBC Chair reminded all members present to identify any conflicts of interest as each registration is reviewed. There were no conflicts identified.	<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>

<p><b>Review and approval of previous meeting minutes</b></p>	<p><b><u>September 29, 2025 Meeting Minutes</u></b></p> <p><b>Motion:</b> A motion was made by RL and seconded by KB to Approve the minutes as written.</p> <p><b>Vote:</b> Approved with 4 members voting in favor, 0 against and 1 abstention</p> <p><b>Discussion:</b> None</p> <p><b>Changes to be made:</b> None</p>	
<p><b>Review of Prior Business</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The IBC Office approved the following administrative modifications to add Co-Investigator/Alternate Contact, Dr. David Rotella to Dr. John Siekierka's two approved protocols. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ These modifications were submitted in response to a request from the IBC to add Dr. Rotella to the protocols, as he is acting in a supervisory role to the PhD student leading the studies, Tyler Eck, while Dr. Siekerka is on a leave of absence. Dr. Rotella completed all required training.</li> <li>○ <b>2025_IBC_0038, "Anti-parasitic drug discovery"</b></li> <li>○ <b>2025_IBC_0039, "Selective targeting of Ewing's Sarcoma with Oligonucleotide-based PROTACs"</b></li> <li>○ Since the approval of these modifications, these two registrations have been <b>closed</b> by the IBC office on 1/20/2026 because the research has been completed.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● The IBC Office <b>closed</b> the following two registrations on 1/22/26 and 1/27/26, respectively, after PI confirmation that work under these protocols has been completed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>2022_IBC_0023, Marybeth Duffy, "Cardiac Screening and Education Initiative"</b></li> <li>○ <b>2024_IBC_0036, Schuler_Devlin, "Assessing the Risks of Cyanotoxins in Freshwater Bivalves"</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>● The IBC Office <b>closed</b> the following registration on 2/2/2026, after PI confirmation that work under this protocol has been completed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>2023_IBC_0025, Carlos Molina, "Human cancer cells xenografts in a nude mice model"</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>● The IBC Office <b>closed</b> the following two registrations on 4/20/2026, as the PI has left the university due to the rearrangement of the Vivarium: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>2024_IBC_0034, Xian Xu, "In vivo Evaluation of mRNA Transfection Efficiency and CRISPR Gene Editing Efficiency of Lipid-based Formulations in mice"</b></li> <li>○ <b>2024_IBC_0035, Xian Xu, "In vivo Evaluation of anti-tumor efficacy and biodistribution of nanoparticle drug formulations in mice"</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><i>Summary of any prior business, such as:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>Actions taken on behalf of the IBC between meetings such verifying conditions have been met for approval.</i></li> <li>● <i>Updates on actions taken regarding incidents or follow up on an injury, discussion of remediation/retraining efforts.</i></li> <li>● <i>Details of building maintenance.</i></li> <li>● <i>Activities pertaining to prior safety discussions.</i></li> <li>● <i>Follow up on correspondence between IBC and NIH OSP.</i></li> </ul>
<p><b>IBC Registration Review</b></p> <p><b>(New IBC Registrations/Renewa</b></p>	<p><b>New IBC Registration:</b></p> <p><b>1. PI Name:</b> Christos Suriano</p> <p><b>IBC Registration Number:</b> 2026_IBC_0041</p>	<p><i>Project Overview content:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>Agent name (e.g., organism, host vector system, etc.).</i></li> <li>● <i>Agent characteristics of</i></li> </ul>

<p><b>Is/Amendments)</b></p>	<p><b>Title:</b> Development of nano-based fluorophore delivery systems for optical imaging and image-guided surgery for cancer</p> <p><b>Project Overview:</b> 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 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.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> Dr. Suriano submitted an IACUC protocol for review (IACUC number 2026-113). It will be reviewed by the IACUC at the meeting on May 27, 2026.</p> <p><b>Applicable sections of the NIH Guidelines:</b></p> <p>– <b>Section III-D-4. Experiments Involving Whole Animals</b> 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)</p> <p>– <b>Section III-E-3. Experiments Involving Transgenic Rodents</b> This section covers experiments involving the generation or use of rodents in which the animal's genome has been altered by stable introduction of recombinant or synthetic nucleic acid molecules, or nucleic acids derived therefrom, into the germ-line (transgenic rodents). Only experiments that require BL1 containment are covered under this section; experiments that require BL2, BL3, or BL4 containment are covered under Section III-D-4, Experiments Involving Whole Animals or Section III-D-8, Experiments Involving Gene Drive Modified Organisms.</p> <p>– <b>Section III-E-3-a. Experiments involving the breeding of certain BL1 transgenic rodents are exempt</b> under Section III-F, Exempt Experiments (See Appendix C-VIII, Generation of BL1 Transgenic Rodents via Breeding).</p> <p><b>Identified risks and risk mitigation measures:</b> A biosafety cabinet will be used during aerosol-inducing procedures.</p>	<p><i>note, (e.g. virulence, pathogenicity, antibiotic susceptibility, environmental stability).</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Sources and nature of the nucleic acid sequences (e.g., species, structural transgene, oncogene, toxin).</i></li> <li>• <i>Summary host(s) and types of vector(s) if used</i></li> <li>• <i>Modifications (e.g., deletions, insertions, mutations to</i></li> <li>• <i>attenuate, or render replication incompetent) and note of any</i></li> <li>• <i>supporting documentation (published or unpublished data).</i></li> <li>• <i>Types of experimental manipulations that will be employed</i></li> <li>• <i>(e.g., tissue culture, animal work).</i></li> <li>• <i>Proposed biosafety containment levels at which each of these</i></li> <li>• <i>operations will occur.</i></li> <li>• <i>Any other pertinent information.</i></li> </ul> <p><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></p> <p><i>Training:</i> <i>Document completion of required institutional level training as well as detailed laboratory or protocol specific training.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Basic Laboratory Biosafety</i></li> <li>• <i>Safe sharps handling</i></li> </ul> <p><i>Detail any additional IBC recommended training, e.g., for use of specialized equipment or higher hazard work</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Protocol/Agent specific biosafety training</i></li> <li>• <i>Animal handling (restraint, injections, primate safety etc.)</i></li> <li>• <i>High containment laboratory proficiency training</i></li> </ul> <p><i>Staff will be trained in laboratory</i></p>
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	<p><b>Training:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ CITI training required for IBC protocol - Initial Biosafety, OSHA Bloodborne Pathogens - PI has been informed of these trainings and they are in progress. The IBC approval letter will note that approval is contingent upon completion.</li> <li>➤ CITI training required for IACUC protocol - Lab/Vivarium Researchers, Working with Mice, Animal Biosafety - PI has been informed of these trainings and they are in progress. The IBC approval letter will note that approval is contingent upon completion.</li> </ul> <p><b>Occupational Health requirements (if applicable):</b> Occ Health clearance required for IACUC protocol - PI has been informed of this requirement and it is in progress. The IBC approval letter will note that approval is contingent upon clearance.</p> <p><b>Biosafety Level:</b> BSL1</p> <p><b>IBC Vote:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Motion:</b> A motion to Approve for 5 years Pending Changes to the protocol was made by NR and seconded by GC.</li> <li>● <b>Vote:</b> Approval Pending Changes was unanimous with 5 members voting in favor, 0 against and 0 abstentions Conflict(s) of interest: None</li> <li>● <b>Discussion:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The IBC discussed obtaining affiliate status for the external collaborator for permission to work on campus. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ The IBC office contacted the compliance office at the collaborator's institution for CITI training records and confirmation of Occupational Health clearance.</li> <li>■ Once the above is confirmed, affiliate status will be requested from the Dean's office.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ The Biosafety officer informed the committee that EH&amp;S is working with Risk Management on a policy for non-affiliates (visitors, students, volunteers, etc.).</li> <li>○ When the requested change has been made to the protocol, the IBC approval letter will note that work under this registration cannot begin until IACUC approval has been secured and all training/clearance requirements have been met.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>Stipulations/Changes requested:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ On page 21, change the language from "and working in a vented hood whenever possible" to "and aerosol-inducing procedures will be done in a biosafety cabinet."</li> <li>○ Complete required CITI training and Occupational Health clearance as discussed.</li> <li>○ The external collaborator must be granted affiliate status prior to beginning work on campus under this registration.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><i>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></p> <p><b>Occ Health:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>Vaccination requirements</i></li> <li>● <i>Respiratory protection</i></li> <li>● <i>Periodic review of any medical surveillance</i></li> <li>● <i>Post-exposure response procedures</i></li> </ul>
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**New IBC Registration:**

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

**IBC Vote:**

- **Motion:** A motion to Table the protocol was made by PH and seconded by NR
- **Vote:** The decision to Table was unanimous with 5 members voting in favor, 0 against and 0 abstentions  
Conflict(s) of interest: None

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Discussion:</b> The IBC discussed potential alternative locations for the work and the freezer and noted the preference for the PI to have study participants ship the samples directly to the off-site lab. The committee agreed that a flow chart would bring clarity to the proposed process, and that more information needs to be provided before a decision can be made on this protocol.</li> <li>● <b>Stipulations/Changes requested:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The Tinnitus Lab cannot be used to receive and store the samples. The room is not approved for this use due to the carpeting and upholstered furniture. There is also not a freezer in this lab; if a freezer is going to be obtained, it will need to be stored in a different location. Is there a backup plan for an alternative space?</li> <li>○ Please include the name of the lab receiving shipment, not just the address.</li> <li>○ Please include the target number of participants from whom you expect to receive samples.</li> <li>○ Please explain how the samples will be shipped and what, if anything, (e.g. dry ice) will be needed.</li> <li>○ Please provide a flow chart so the IBC can visualize the process of receiving, handling, storing and shipping out the samples.</li> <li>○ The IBC makes the recommendation that the samples be sent directly to the receiving lab instead of first coming to Montclair.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<b>Inspections/ Ongoing Oversight</b>	<p>– CELS Vivarium rooms for Dr. Suriano will have to be inspected and approved by the IACUC prior to use.</p> <p>– Biosafety Officer/EH&amp;S will need to inspect the freezer and designated space in Dr. Britton's lab.</p>	<p><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></p> <p><i>Section IV-B-2-b(5) of the NIH Guidelines requires IBCs to periodically review to ensure compliance with the NIH Guidelines.</i></p>
<b>Review of Incidents</b>	<p>None to report</p>	<p><i>The NIH Guidelines require that significant incidents, violations and research-related accidents and illnesses be reported to NIH OSP.</i></p> <p><i>For information regarding incident reporting requirements please refer to the Incident Reporting FAQs.</i></p>
<b>New Business/ Additional Topics</b>	<p><b>New business:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● To remain in compliance with export control guidelines, the IBC Office has updated the IBC protocol template to include specific questions about shipment of materials. See page 22 of the template.</li> <li>● 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</li> </ul>	<p><i>Note any new or additional topics discussed by the IBC.</i></p> <p><i>Institutional Policy Review/ Updates -Document IBC vote as above as applicable</i></p> <p><i>Section IV-B-2-b(6) of the NIH Guidelines requires IBCs to adopt emergency plans covering</i></p>

	<p>to the IBC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Chair, the Biosafety Officer and the Office of Research Compliance are discussing the plan for updates to the Biosafety Manual.</li> <li>• The Director of Research Compliance, the IBC Chair, the IBC Coordinator, and the Biosafety Officer attended the first NIH regional listening session on modernizing and strengthening the oversight of biosafety on September 30, 2025, as well as subsequent sessions.</li> </ul>	<p><i>personnel contamination, research-related illness, accidental spills, and loss of containment. The IBC should approve new or amended policies by formal vote.</i></p>
<b>IBC Training</b>	<p>There was no training scheduled for this meeting.</p>	<p><i>Note any training conducted for the IBC members during meeting.</i></p>
<b>Public Comments</b>	<p>There were no public comments.</p>	
<b>Adjournment</b>	<p>Upcoming IBC meeting dates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• June 29, 2026</li> <li>• Calendar invites have been sent for meetings scheduled for the 2026-27 academic year.</li> </ul> <p>The Chair adjourned the meeting at 11:55am. NR seconded the motion to adjourn.</p>	

Minutes submitted by: Carrie Laset, IBC Coordinator

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