

IBC Meeting Minutes 9/29/25

Attendees: Cindy White, Crista Wadsworth, Emily Coon, Phil VanChieri, Mary-Anne Courtney, Jennifer Harman, Karin Wuertz-Kozak

1) General updates

a. New Executive Order

- i. The order dated May 5, 2025: [Executive Order on Improving the Safety and Security of Biological Research](#).
- ii. A PI's research was flagged through Sponsored Research by the NIH due to this new order. As stated: *'Specifically, NIH funds may **not** be used to support any dangerous Gain-of-Function research with the potential to endanger the lives of American citizens. The harm includes widespread mortality, an impaired public health system, disrupted American livelihoods, or diminished economic and national security.'*
- iii. To address this, we had to submit the following to Sponsored Research
 1. A statement from the PI saying that no Gain-of-Function research will be performed.
 2. Documentation of the handling and disposal of organisms.
 3. Training on safety procedures by individuals working on the project.
- iv. Sponsored Research has forwarded the information on to NIH. We are waiting for their response.
- v. This may affect others going forward and is something to be aware of.

- b. The current biosafety signage on labs is outdated. They include 'orange men' and dots in the RIT logo. EH&S submitted the signs to Marketing and Communications to have them updated with RIT branding. The new signs will start to be used as soon as they're available. The old signs will be replaced over time, which will also help to ensure that they are appropriate for the current research.

2) Elena Fedorovskaya – Human Saliva

a. Registration:

- i. Question 5, page 1 is not answered. Try to find a generic SDS for human saliva.
- ii. Next section, page 1
 1. Question 1: Answer yes or no.
 2. question b iv: Change to yes (BBP training)
 3. question 3: Change to yes
 4. question 4: Will you be using any biosafety cabinets or other devices?
Do you need any? Answer Y, N or NA
- iii. Page 2, Question B1a
 1. Saliva has the potential to contain blood and is considered to be BSL2.
Change 1 to 2 in the table.
 - a. All saliva should be handled/treated as though it was blood.
 2. Add cheek cells to table B1a. Saliva, cheek cells.

- iv. What lab will you be working in? Emily noted that you will need to use equipment in room A365 but it wasn't clear where samples would be collected. Will participants swab their cheeks in the lab or elsewhere?
 - v. Section K
 - 1. Specify where participants will be located when collecting samples. It sounds like it might be in the lab.
 - 2. 'Samples will be sent for analysis'.
 - a. Add details on:
 - i. Where will they be sent?
 - ii. How will they be packaged for transport? (There are specific requirements for packaging/ labeling. Let me know if you need this information.)
 - iii. Processing
 - 1. Emily noted that you needed access to a centrifuge, freezer and water bath. Include details on how these will be used.
 - b. SOP:
 - i. Remove gas cylinder training. Add bloodborne pathogens training.
- 3) Christy Tyler – Microplastic Abundance ...Lake Ontario
 - a. The only adjustment that is needed is to make the Registration and the SOP match under required training. Your registration indicates needing bloodborne pathogens training for this research, which is not required. Please change your answer to questions 2.b.iv. to no on page 1.
- 4) To do:
 - a. Cindy will send emails to both PIs letting them know what changes the committee has asked for.
 - b. Lab inspections will be scheduled for both
 - c. Once edits have been made, project numbers will be assigned and final documents will be sent to Crista for approval.