Des Moines University Institutional Biosafety Committee
Meeting Minutes
Date: January 26, 2026
Zoom Meeting
10:00 a.m.

Member Attendance			
Present	**Absent**	**Name**	**Member Designation**
X		Kellie Sheets	Director of Research Operations, Compliance and Strategy
X		Noah Marcus, PhD	Scientist
X		Marie Nguyen, PhD	Scientist, Chair
X		Vanessa Gray, DHA	Non-scientist
X		Mike Boyer	Technical
X		Brian Gentry, PhD	Unaffiliated Scientist
X		Susan Brown, PhD	Unaffiliated Member
The meeting was held via Zoom and all materials were provided prior to the meeting so that members could fully participate in all discussions.			
Quorum: 5			
Guests Present: Lori Winter, Research Specialist			

I. **Call to order:** 10:01 a.m.
Dr. Nguyen presented the agenda, which included reviewing meeting minutes from Oct 7, 2025, and discussing two IBC protocols. Dr. Nguyen mentioned that the meeting minutes need to be posted publicly on the DMU website due to new federal regulations

II. **Approval of Meeting Minutes:**
A motion to approve the minutes was made and seconded. Meeting minutes from Oct 7, 2025, were approved by the full committee:
Approved: 6

Nay: 0, Abstain: 0

III. Review of IBC #24-1-1, "*Regulation of behavioral and physiological effects following chronic stress or pain*" from Dr. Vanja Duric:

- Dr. Nguyen led the discussion to review the continuing renewal of Dr. Duric's Protocol #24-1-1 , which involves the use of adeno-associated virus (AAV) vectors to study chronic stress and pain in rodent models. Dr. Duric's research aims to manipulate the expression of MKP1, a protein involved in the MAP kinase pathway, using various AAV constructs. The following were deemed appropriate by the committee.
    - Assignment of NIH level
    - Biosafety level
    - Disinfection procedures
    - Containment practices
    - Currently listed personnel have completed all required training.
- No questions or comments were received from the committee. . A motion was made and seconded to approve the protocol. Motion passed unanimously.

  Approved: 6
  Nay: 0, Abstain: 0

IV. Review of IBC #24-2-1, "*Herpesvirus – Host Pathogen Interaction*" from Dr. Marie Nguyen:

- Dr. Nguyen recused herself from reviewing her protocol and left meeting.
- Dr. Noah Marcus led discussion of Dr. Nguyen's protocol.
- The meeting focused on the renewal of a research protocol #24-2-1, submitted by Dr. Nguyen. Dr. Marcus presented the renewal details, highlighting that the protocol involves studying post-virus interactions in human herpes viruses, with experiments focusing on viral replication and latency, particularly in developing antiviral strategies for vulnerable populations. The following were deemed appropriate by the committee.
    - Assignment of NIH level
    - Biosafety level
    - Disinfection procedures

- Containment practices
- Currently listed personnel have completed all required training.

- No questions or comments were received from the committee. Dr. Marcus requested a motion to approve. Dr. Gentry made a motion to approve, 2nd by Vanessa. The protocol was approved by the attendees without any further discussion.

  Approved: 5
  Nay: 0, Abstain: 1

V. Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 10:16 a.m.