

MBL IBC Meeting Minutes 3/5/2026

Introduction

Institution: Marine Biological Laboratory, Woods Hole, MA

Meeting Date: 3/5/26

Meeting Time: 11:00 AM

Meeting Type: Hybrid, MBL Campus Lillie 103 and Zoom

IBC Members Present: David Mark Welch (Chair), Eric Jensen (BSO and EHS Manager), Zoe Cardon (MBL Senior Scientist, Plant Expert), Rudolf Oldenbourg (MBL Senior Scientist), Alan Kuzirian (MBL Senior Scientist Emeritus), Mark Hahn (WHOI Senior Scientist), Jenifer Alai (Chemistry Faculty, Cape Cod Community College), and Erin Pyszka (MBL IBC Administrator).

Quorum: A quorum is present. The MBL IBC Committee has 7 voting members and 5 members are required to conduct business. All 7 voting members are present.

Other Individuals in Attendance: No

Call to Order: The MBL IBC Chair called the meeting to order at 11:06 AM.

Conflicts of Interest: The MBL IBC Chair reminded all members present to identify any conflicts of interest as each registration is reviewed. No conflicts of interest were identified.

Review of Prior Business: Cloning E.coli is exempt from NIH guidelines. Today's review includes two protocols creating transgenics or with potential to create transgenics, and two others which do not fall under NIH guidelines but work with protozoan parasites (eukaryotic that can infect humans). Containment protocols should be reviewed by committee.

New IBC Registrations and Amendments for Review

1. 2026_MBL-IBC-01 (required)

- PI Name: Zak Swartz
- Registration: New registration 2026_MBL-IBC-01,BSL-1, NIH III-D4a
- Project Overview: Resident MBL scientist and echinoderm expert proposing to create transgenic lines from non-native bat stars, *Patiria miniata*. Bat stars are nonnative to Woods Hole, MA. Section III-B details NIH exempt work of the use of clones in E.coli. Section III-E details project goal to develop bat

stars as tractable model organism for evolutionary development studies via CRISPR fluorescent marker.

- Containment of non-native species- sufficient containment in MRC with well- trained aquaculture staff
- No concerns or issues, all vote approved

2. 2026_MBL-IBC-02 (exempt)

- PI Name: Fernanda Novais, Biology of Parasitism ARTC course
- Registration: New registration 2026_MBL-IBC-02, BSL-2, exempt
- Project Overview: Biology of Parasitism course bringing Leishmania (infectious) and working with graduate students. Details student training and PPE.
- Concerns- designates Loeb 206 as lab room but did not yet consult on biosafety cabinet availability with BSO. Typo found for 10% bleach instead of 1% bleach. BSO will follow up with in person orientation and make aware of all MBL lab safety standards, new faculty.
- Appropriate containment room is identified.
- Will follow up with IACUC number before arrival
- No other concerns, all vote approved.

3. 2026_MBL-IBC-03 (required)

- PI Name: Karen Echeverri
- Registration: Renewal 2026_MBL-IBC-03, BSL-2, NIH III-D
- Project Overview: Renewal for axolotls and Nematostella on regeneration, protocol is very complete for creating transgenics. Section III-B generating E.coli clones (exempt but specified). Section III-C generating transgenic cell lines with standard lentiviral vector commercially available and disabled from replication, considered safe but also BSL-2. Commercial lentivirus two different plasmids with two different pieces. OK to do lentivirus in tissue culture. Section III-E- creating transgenic lines in Axolotls and Nematostella. Extremely routine, wants to create fluorescent protein markers. Not a danger to lab personnel or community.
- Concerns: No concerns.
- Containment: Containment is sufficient for Axolotls. For Nematostella they are ubiquitous in the environment, self contained basins.

- No concerns or issues, all vote approved.

4. 2026_MBL-IBC-04 (exempt)

- PI Name: Kate Rawlinson
- Registration: Renewal 2026_MBL-IBC-04, BSL-2, exempt
- Project Overview: Work with schistosomes. All used lab rooms require card access with spring doors. Works with all stages of schistosome life cycle, snails to shed cercaria (infectious to humans) with extremely short period to find host otherwise will die. Will also die on hard surfaces without host. Will be using fixed samples not live samples so not transgenic. Control section- appreciates that it is noted that cercaria can be killed with 80% ethanol
- Concerns: No concerns or issues especially among building staff and POM, building staff annually trained on laboratory safety notation and signage. Extensive PPE description.
- Containment: Sufficient containment described.
- No concerns, all vote approved.

Adjournment at 11:35 AM