



Institutional Biosafety Committee

Meeting Minutes

October 22, 2025

Location: Zoom Meeting

Time: 9:30 am

IBC Members present

Quorum established: Yes

Laurie P. Shornick, Ph.D.

Adriana M. Montano, Ph.D.

Steven Cummings, M.D.

Christopher S. Eickhoff, M.S.

Paul M. Loewenstein, B.S.

Andrew J. Lechner, Ph.D.

Geoffrey J. Gorse, M.D.

Ella M. Swierkosz, Ph.D.

Karoly Toth, D.V.M.

Wayne A. Wilhelm, B.S.

Kathleen Donovan, D.V.M.

Melinda S. Darnell, M.S.

Tamara P. Blevins, M.S. (Alternate-voting)

Patricia Osmack, MLS(ASCP), M.A., RBP (Non-voting)

Renee Knoll, M.S., CHMM (Non-voting)

Steve Tinge, CPIA (Non-voting)

I. Old Business

A. Approval of Minutes

1. The minutes for the September 24, 2025, SLU IBC meeting were fully approved: 10-yes/0-no/2-abstentions (Ella M. Swierkosz, Ph.D. and Karoly Toth, D.V.M.).
2. The minutes for the September 24, 2025, SLU VA IBC meeting were fully approved: 11-yes/0-no/2-abstentions (Ella M. Swierkosz, Ph.D. and Karoly Toth, D.V.M.). The SLU VA ad hoc member, Susan Farr, Ph.D., voted by email.

B. Closed Items (Protocols fully approved between meetings):

1. New protocols previously granted contingent approval by the full IBC where the PI responses were reviewed and approved between meetings by the BSO or designee:
 - Salvemini, Daniela, Ph.D., (Pharmacology & Physiological Science) eIBC Protocol: 2025-00037.
2. Amendments or continuing reviews with changes previously granted contingent approval by the full IBC where the PI responses were reviewed and approved by the BSO or designee:
 - Touchette, Erin, M.S., (Comparative Medicine, Inotiv) eIBC Protocol: 2025-00014.

- Salvemini, Daniela, Ph.D., (Pharmacology & Physiological Science) eIBC Protocol: 2025-00019.
- 3. Amendments not meeting threshold of requiring full committee review based on NIH guidelines and SLU IBC Policy that were reviewed and approved by the BSO or designee:
 - Antony, Edwin, Ph.D., (Biochemistry & Molecular Biology) eIBC Protocol: 2024-00055.
 - DiPaolo, Richard, Ph.D., (Molecular Microbiology & Immunology) eIBC Protocol: 2024-00052.
 - Montano, Adriana, Ph.D., (Pediatrics) eIBC Protocol: 2023-00034.
 - Lemaire, Laurence Anne, Ph.D., (Biology) eIBC Protocol: 2023-00028.
 - Lindsay, Kathryn, MSN, (Psychiatry) eIBC Protocol: 2023-00050.
 - Liu, Haijun, Ph.D., (Biology), eIBC Protocol: 2023-00029.
 - Nazzal, Mustafa, M.D., (Abdominal Transplant Center) eIBC Protocol: 2023-00048.
- 4. Continuing reviews not meeting threshold of requiring full committee review based on NIH guidelines and SLU IBC Policy that were reviewed and approved by the BSO or designee:
 - Heuertz, Rita, Ph.D., (Doisy College of Health Sciences) eIBC Protocol: 2024-00050.
 - Origanti, Sofia, Ph. D. (Biology) eIBC Protocol: 2024-00044.
 - Ungerleider, Nathan, Ph.D., (Molecular Microbiology & Immunology) eIBC Protocol: 2024-00043.
 - Ezekiel, Uthayashanker, Ph.D., (Clinical Health Sciences) eIBC Protocol: 2023-00037.
 - Gonzalo-Hervas, Susana, Ph.D., (Biochemistry & Molecular Biology) eIBC Protocol: 2022-00033.
 - Touchette, Erin, M.S., (Comparative Medicine, Inotiv) eIBC Protocol: 2024-00057.
- 5. Protocols Closed (at the request of the PI):
 - None
- 6. Draft Protocols Withdrawn:
 - None

C. Open Items (Protocols reviewed by the IBC but not fully approved)

1. New protocols previously granted contingent approval by the full IBC where the PI responses have not yet been approved:
 - Anzell, Anthony, Ph.D., (Pediatrics) eIBC Protocol ID: 2025-00029.
2. Amendments previously granted contingent approval by the full IBC where the PI responses have not yet been approved:
 - Zustiak, Silviya, Ph.D., (Biomedical Engineering) eIBC Protocol: 2024-00025.

II. New Business

A. New Protocols

1.

Principle Investigator	Cazuza, Rafael, Ph.D.
Department	Pharmacology & Physiological Science
Protocol #	2025-00036
Title	Neuron-glia crosstalk in pain comorbidities
Protocol Description	The PI will test whether microglia are activated in the brain and functionally contribute to sensory disturbances and pain comorbidities over time.
Types of manipulation	Laboratory and animal
Agents	Virus & animals
Containment level	ABSL-1 & BSL-1
Applicable section of NIH Guidelines	III-D-4
IBC Review	The committee performed a risk assessment to determine the biocontainment levels, and reviewed training, facilities (locations and inspections), procedures and practices, agent characteristics, and if used, rsNA details (gene sources, nature, hosts and vectors, and attempts of expression and function of any transgenes).
IBC comments (to be addressed by PI)	The IBC requested clarification on the handling of viral vectors in animals and flow cytometry. Updates in language for the handling of liquid waste, transporting samples and PPE were also requested. The IBC worked with Comparative Medicine to determine which research spaces will be used for animal handling and housing.
IBC Decision	The IBC provided contingent approval of the protocol (12-yes 0-no/0-abstention). Follow-up action: designated review by the BSO or designee.

B. Five Year Renewals of eIBC Protocols:

1.

Principle Investigator	Ray, Ratna, Ph.D.
Department	Pathology
Protocol #	2025-00044
Title	Investigating Hepatitis C Virus Mediated Liver Disease. Renewal of 2020-00039.
Protocol Description	The PI is studying HCV and HCC mediated disease and to identify new therapeutic strategies to treat patients with these diseases.
Types of manipulation	Laboratory and animal
Agents	Human cell lines, human tissue, virus, bacteria, plasmids, miRNA, siRNA, and lncRNA.
Containment level	ABSL-1, ABSL-2 & BSL-2
Applicable section of NIH Guidelines	III-D-1, III-D-2, III-D-3, III-D-4, III-F
IBC Review	The committee performed a risk assessment to determine the biocontainment levels, and reviewed training, facilities (locations and inspections), procedures and practices, agent characteristics, and if used, rsNA details (gene sources, nature, hosts and vectors, and attempts of expression and function of any transgenes).
IBC comments (to be addressed by PI)	The IBC requested additional details about electroporation, decontamination of liquid waste and PPE. Updates to personnel were also requested. The IBC worked with Comparative Medicine to determine which research spaces will be used for animal handling and housing.
IBC Decision	The IBC provided contingent approval of the protocol (12-yes 0-no/0-abstention). Follow-up action: designated review by the BSO or designee.

2.

Principle Investigator	Alspach, Elise, Ph.D.
Department	Molecular Microbiology & Immunology
Protocol #	2025-00048
Title	The Impact of Biological Sex on Anti-Tumor T Cell Immunity (5 year renewal of expiring protocol 2020-00027)
Protocol Description	The PI will use cell culture techniques and animal models to understand how biological sex influences the function of anti-tumor T cell populations.
Types of manipulation	Laboratory and animal
Agents	Human and murine cell lines, viral vectors, bacteria, toxin and plasmids
Containment level	ABSL-2 & BSL-2
Applicable section of NIH Guidelines	III-D-1, III-D-2, III-D-3, III-D-4, III-E-1, III-F
IBC Review	The committee performed a risk assessment to determine the biocontainment levels, and reviewed training, facilities (locations and inspections), procedures and practices, agent characteristics, and if used, rsNA details (gene sources, nature, hosts and vectors, and attempts of expression and function of any transgenes).
IBC comments (to be addressed by PI)	The IBC requested information on plasmids used and the methods to evaluate gene expression. Confirmation by the Chemical Safety Officer on the toxin handling was also requested.
IBC Decision	The IBC provided contingent approval of the protocol (12-yes 0-no/0-abstention). Follow-up action: designated review by the BSO or designee.

3.

Principle Investigator	Ray, Ratna, Ph.D.
Department	Pathology
Protocol #	2025-00043
Title	Modulation of Cancer Growth using Different Model Systems (breast, prostate, lung, head & neck). Renewal of 2020-00038.
Protocol Description	The PI is studying the modulation of cancer growth using Different Model Systems (breast, prostate, lung, and head & neck).
Types of manipulation	Laboratory and animal
Agents	Human and murine cell lines and tissues, bacteria, plasmids and viral vectors.
Containment level	ABSL-1,ABSL-2 & BSL-2
Applicable section of NIH Guidelines	III-D-4, III-F
IBC Review	The committee performed a risk assessment to determine the biocontainment levels, and reviewed training, facilities (locations and inspections), procedures and practices, agent characteristics, and if used, rsNA details (gene sources, nature, hosts and vectors, and attempts of expression and function of any transgenes).
IBC comments (to be addressed by PI)	The IBC requested updates to 1) risk group designations, 2) the text of the Protocol Summary for clarity, and 3) the personnel section. The IBC worked with Comparative Medicine to determine which research spaces will be used for animal handling and housing.
IBC Decision	The IBC provided contingent approval of the protocol (12-yes 0-no/0-abstention). Follow-up action: designated review by the BSO or designee.

C. Amendments & Continuing Reviews of Approved eIBC Protocols:

1. None

D. Protocols in Pre-Review:


1. New protocols: 0
2. Amendments: 3
3. Annual continuing reviews: 1

E. Other Business:

1. The IBC discussed and approved a motion to modify handling requirements for Pertussis toxin (PTX) in animals.
2. The BSO briefly outlined the NIH's new "Biosafety Modernization Initiative".


The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:21 am.

Respectfully Submitted:

Signed by:

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Patricia A. Osmack, MLS(ASCP), M.A., RBP(ABSA)
Institutional Biosafety Committee Manager

Reviewed:

DocuSigned by:

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Christopher S. Eickhoff, M.S.
Biological Safety Officer & Executive
Secretary Institutional Biosafety Committee

Approved:

DocuSigned by:

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Laurie P. Shornick, Ph.D.
Institutional Biosafety Committee Chairperson

Reviewed:

DocuSigned by:

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Lee Seabrooke, M.B.A.
Associate Vice President for Research