

HBA/IBC MEETING MINUTES
Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC)
Zoom Meeting

Meeting Minutes

May 01, 2026
1:00 pm – 3:30 pm

ATTENDANCE

Voting Members Present:

	<i>IBC Position</i>	<i>Area or Department</i>
Daniele Provenzano (Zoom)	Chair, Scientist	Bio. & Chem. - Bacterial Genet.
Julie Mustard (Zoom)	Vice-Chair, Scientist	Integrative Bio. & Chem. - Neurosci.
Megan Keniry (Zoom)	Scientist	Integrative Bio. & Chem. – Mamm. Cell Bio.
HyeongJun Kim (Zoom)	Scientist	Phys. and Astron. Bacterial Chr. dynamics/biophys./biochem.
Dae Joon Kim (Zoom)	Scientist	Medicine & Oncology
Robin Choudhury (Zoom)	Scientist	Bio. & Chem. - SEEMS
Subramanian	Scientist	Medicine & Oncology
Dhandayuthapani (Zoom)		
David Laughlin (Zoom)	Community Representative	Not Affiliated
Javier Garcia (Zoom)	BSO, Ex-Officio	Environmental Health, Safety & Risk Management

Voting Members Absent:
(Without Representation)

	<i>IBC Position</i>	<i>Area or Department</i>
Laura Decanini	Community Representative	Not Affiliated
Lynne Depeault	Community Representative	Not Affiliated

Ex-Officio Non-Voting Members Present:

	<i>IBC Position</i>	<i>Area or Department</i>
Cordelia Rasa (Zoom)	Ex-Officio, LAR & BSL3 Director	Ex-Officio, LAR & BSL3 Director
Amy Mutore (Zoom)	Ex-Officio, Professional Support	Office of Research Compliance
Monica Barrera (Zoom)	Ex-Officio, Professional Support	Office of Research Compliance

Ex-Officio Non-Voting Members Absent:

	<i>IBC Position</i>	<i>Area or Department</i>
Matthew Moncus (Zoom)	Ex-Officio, EHSRM Director	Ex-Officio, EHSRM Director
Eric Allen (Zoom)	Ex-Officio, Admin Rep	Office of Research Compliance

Total Voting Members Present: 9**Guests:**

<i>Capacity</i>
None

QUORUM

The quorum requirement for the IBC meeting is 6 voting members present and must consist of at least 5 members from UTRGV employees and 1 unaffiliated member. Upon quorum being assembled, the meeting was called to order by the Chair at 1:05 pm. Including the Chair, 8 voting members were in attendance at the beginning of the meeting. Dr. Julie Mustard joined at 1:10pm, bringing the total to 9 members present. Dr. Robin Choudhury left at 2:43pm and Dr. David Laughlin left at 3:03 p.m. after all voting had been conducted. Quorum was maintained throughout the entire meeting.

A. WELCOME

The Chair welcomed the Committee.

B. STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

The Chair reminded the Committee to hold in confidence the information revealed and/or discussed during the meeting and not disclose the information to any third parties including investigators and research personnel.

C. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST:

The Chair reminded the Committee of their responsibility to declare any conflicts of interest prior to the discussion of any study included as an agenda item. Members were reminded that conflicts of interest include financial (e.g., Member or Member's family hold a financial interest in the research sponsor) and non-financial (e.g. Member is part of a study research team). The Members were polled for any conflicts of interest with the projects being reviewed.

No conflicts were reported.

D. REVIEW AND APROVAL OF PREVIOUS IBC MEETING MINUTES

1. Review of meeting minutes dated **April 3, 2026**.

- a. A motion was made by Dr. Megan Keniry and seconded by Dr. Dae Kim to approve the minutes with corrections.
- b. All were in favor of approval.
- c. Total Voting = 8 Vote: For = 8, Against = 0, Abstained = 0, Recused = 0.
Dr. Julie Mustard had not yet joined the meeting and was not present during voting.

E. AMENDMENTS

1. IBC-24-19

Project Title: *Utilization of BSL2 bacteria for research in infection control in foot and ankle surgeries*

Sponsor: N/A

Biosafety Level: BSL-2

Principal Investigator: Yahan Wei

Type of Submission: Amendment

Committee Action: Approved

Total Voting = 9 Vote: For = 9, Against = 0, Abstained = 0, Recused = 0.

Incidents:

None.

NIH Guidelines Sections:

None.

Discussion:

The committee determined there were no significant changes made to the protocol. The Committee reviewed and verified that the protocol specifies all approved laboratory spaces authorized for the proposed activities. All procedures outlined in the protocol were determined to be consistent with established standard laboratory practices and compliant with institutional requirements for work in these designated spaces. PI CVs have been evaluated to verify and certify subject matter expertise.

Motion:

A motion was entered by Dr. Megan Keniry and seconded by Dr. Julie Mustard to grant approval of IBC-24-19 pending that the training records are up to date. The motion carried unanimously.

F. NEW IBC PROTOCOLS

1. IBC-26-06

Project Title: *Mechanistic investigation of oncogenic drivers and metabolic regulators in cancer*

Sponsor: CPRIT

Biosafety Level: BSL-2

Principal Investigator (PI): Manish Tripathi

Type of Submission: New Protocol

Committee Action: 30-day Approval; Revisions needed to secure approval past 30 days

Total Voting = 9 *Vote:* For = 9, Against = 0, Abstained = 0, Recused = 0.

Summary:

The goal of the project is to elucidate the molecular mechanisms underlying cancer progression, metastasis, and metabolic reprogramming in hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) and colorectal cancer (CRC), with a particular focus on populations affected by health disparities, such as those in the Rio Grande Valley. This work aims to identify novel biomarkers and therapeutic targets, ultimately contributing to improved strategies for early diagnosis and treatment of HCC and CRC.

NIH Guidelines Sections:

1. II-A-3 - Use of human cells/cell lines or tissues (e.g., human blood, 293 cell lines, CSF)
2. III-E, III-F - Expression of recombinant or synthetic nucleic acid molecules in cultured cells

Discussion:

The Committee discussed the protocol in detail and determined that the PI would need to make multiple minor revisions to secure approval after 30 days. The Committee reviewed and verified that the protocol specifies all approved laboratory spaces authorized for the proposed activities. All procedures outlined in the protocol were determined to be consistent with established standard laboratory practices and compliant with institutional requirements for work in these designated spaces, except as noted below. PI CVs have been evaluated to verify and certify subject matter expertise.

The following changes are requested from PI:

1. Upload the missing vector/plasmid maps of all inserts/vectors declared on tick@lab.

Risks Identified:

The study was determined to be of low risk with work involving the use of RG2 agents being performed under BSL2 conditions.

Motion:

A motion was entered by Dr. Dae Kim and seconded by Dr. Megan Keniry to grant 30-day approval of IBC-26-06 pending the changes and information requested are satisfactorily addressed by the PI and that the training records are up to date to secure approval past the 30-day period. The motion carried unanimously.

2. IBC-25-21

Project Title: *Multimodal measurements of neuroinflammation*

Sponsor: N/A

Biosafety Level: BSL-2

Principal Investigator (PI): Ishan Salloum
Type of Submission: New Protocol
Committee Action: 30-day Approval; Revisions needed to secure approval past 30 days
Total Voting = 9 *Vote:* For = 9, Against = 0, Abstained = 0, Recused = 0.

Summary:

The goal of the project is to identify biomarkers of neuroinflammation across several neuropsychiatric disorders utilizing standardized protocol sequence of magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and their correlations with fNIRS and high-density EEG findings. The aim of this pilot study is to comparatively examine neuroinflammation in patients identified for high peripheral indices of chronic mild inflammation as indicated by a c-reactive protein (CRP) level between 1 and 10 as compared to a normal control group.

NIH Guidelines Sections:

None.

Discussion:

The Committee discussed the protocol in detail and determined that the PI would need to make multiple minor revisions to secure approval after 30 days. The Committee reviewed and verified that the protocol specifies all approved laboratory spaces authorized for the proposed activities. All procedures outlined in the protocol were determined to be consistent with established standard laboratory practices and compliant with institutional requirements for work in these designated spaces, except as noted below. PI CVs have been evaluated to verify and certify subject matter expertise.

The following changes are requested from PI:

1. In the project description (Box 1), specify in greater detail precisely what is done with the samples at what location. Include where the volunteer samples are harvested and processed and whether this is a clinical laboratory.
2. Submit the narratives in the boxes to spell check.
3. Remove the name of Dr. Murali Yallapu and refer instead to the name of the core facility the samples will be processed at and the building and room number of the laboratory.
4. At each instance where "established protocols" or "UT approved procedures" are referenced, elaborate on what those entail.

Risks Identified:

The study was determined to be low risk with work being conducted under BSL2 conditions.

Motion:

A motion was entered by Dr. Megan Keniry and seconded by Dr. Dae Kim to grant 30-day approval of IBC-25-21 pending the changes and information requested are satisfactorily addressed by the PI and that the training records are up to date to secure approval past the 30-day period. The motion carried unanimously.

3. IBC-25-22

Project Title: *Impact of binge drinking in college students: A translational approach*

Sponsor: N/A

Biosafety Level: BSL-2

Principal Investigator (PI): Ishan Salloum

Type of Submission: New Protocol

Committee Action: Tabled

Total Voting = 9 *Vote:* For = 9, Against = 0, Abstained = 0, Recused = 0.

Summary:

The goal of the project is to examine the biological impact of binge drinking in college students using a translational research approach. This study seeks to address this gap by analyzing blood-derived specimens collected from human participants.

NIH Guidelines Sections:

None.

Discussion:

The Committee discussed the protocol in detail and agreed to table the study until further clarification was given to properly assess the risk involved. Committee reviewed and verified that the protocol specifies all approved laboratory spaces authorized for the proposed activities. All procedures outlined in the protocol were determined to be consistent with established standard laboratory practices and compliant with institutional requirements for work in these designated spaces, except as noted below. PI CVs have been evaluated to verify and certify subject matter expertise.

The following changes are requested from PI:

1. Clearly describe what exactly is done at what location with the samples, including building and room numbers. Here also, refer to the core facility, rather than to Dr. Yallapu where the samples will be processed including building and room number, where centrifugation for separation of blood will take place, etc.
2. Fill the biological safety cabinet table, if applicable and clarify whether samples are obtained at a clinical laboratory.

Risks Identified:

The risk assessment could not be determined for lack of details.

Motion:

A motion was entered by Dr. HyeongJun Kim and seconded by Dr. Dae Kim to table IBC-25-22 pending the elaboration of some details required for a proper risk assessment.

The motion carried unanimously.

4. IBC-26-05

Project Title: *Use of Mammalian Cell Culture to Study Biomaterials for Regenerative Medicine Applications*

Sponsor: N/A

Biosafety Level: BSL-2

Principal Investigator (PI): Claudia Biguetti

Type of Submission: New Protocol

Committee Action: 30-day Approval; Revisions needed to secure approval past 30 days

Total Voting = 9 *Vote: For = 9, Against = 0, Abstained = 0, Recused = 0.*

Summary:

The goal of the project is to study how mammalian cells respond to materials used in regenerative medicine. These materials are commonly used in medical research to help repair or replace damaged bone, muscle, skin, and oral tissues. Understanding how cells react to these materials will help improve the safety and effectiveness of future treatments.

NIH Guidelines Sections:

None.

Discussion:

The Committee discussed the protocol in detail and determined that the PI would need to make multiple minor revisions to secure approval after 30 days. The Committee reviewed and verified that the protocol specifies all approved laboratory spaces authorized for the proposed activities. All procedures outlined in the protocol were determined to be consistent with established standard laboratory practices and compliant with institutional requirements for work in these designated spaces, except as noted below. PI CVs have been evaluated to verify and certify subject matter expertise.

The following changes are requested from PI:

1. Spell check all narratives to correct typos.
2. Include the use of 10% bleach for 10 minutes for disinfection procedures.

Risks Identified:

The study was determined to be low risk with work being conducted under BSL2 conditions.

Motion:

A motion was entered by Dr. HyeonJun Kim and seconded by Dr. David Laughlin to grant 30-day approval of IBC-26-05 pending the changes and information requested are satisfactorily addressed by the PI and that the training records are up to date to secure approval past the 30-day period. The motion carried unanimously.

5. IBC-26-03

Project Title: *Identify novel antimicrobial agents*

Sponsor: N/A

Biosafety Level: BSL-2

Principal Investigator (PI): Yahan Wei

Type of Submission: New Protocol

Committee Action: 30-day Approval; Revisions needed to secure approval past 30 days

Total Voting = 9 *Vote:* For = 9, Against = 0, Abstained = 0, Recused = 0.

Summary:

This project encompasses multiple related projects utilizing similar cell types and bacterial strains, as well as methodologies to investigate the antimicrobial potentials of known chemical compounds (synthetic and commercially available without any known health risks at standard laboratory conditions). Specifically, the effects of the targeted drugs on bacterial survival/growth as well as eukaryotic cell lines will be assessed

NIH Guidelines Sections:

None.

Discussion:

The Committee discussed the protocol in detail and determined that the PI would need to make multiple minor revisions to secure approval after 30 days. The Committee reviewed and verified that the protocol specifies all approved laboratory spaces authorized for the proposed activities. All procedures outlined in the protocol were determined to be consistent with established standard laboratory practices and compliant with institutional requirements for work in these designated spaces, except as noted below. PI CVs have been evaluated to verify and certify subject matter expertise.

The following changes are requested from PI:

1. Wherever not specified, include the time used for 10% bleach disinfection being 10 minutes.
2. Remove all RG1 agents from the Hazardous Biological Agents table.
3. In the project narrative (Box 1), list and briefly describe the potential antimicrobial drugs to be tested.

Risks Identified:

The study was determined to be low risk with work involving bacteria and eukaryotic cells being conducted under BSL2 conditions.

Motion:

A motion was entered by Dr. Megan Keniry and seconded by Dr. Julie Mustard to grant 30-day approval of IBC-26-03 pending the changes and information requested are satisfactorily addressed by the PI and that the training records are up to date to secure approval past the 30-day period. The motion carried unanimously.

G. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

1. Laboratory Placards

- a. Dr. Daniele Provenzano showed the committee the laboratory placards he proposes could be used to create updated placards for laboratories to use that will contain important information on that specific laboratory in case it is needed in the event of an emergency. He asked that EHSRM consider updating the current placards and create new ones that can be provided to laboratories.
 1. Mr. Javier Garcia mentioned he brought the topic up to EHSRM director Matthew Moncus who approved of the creation of laboratory placards, and is also currently working with the print shop supervisor to see if there's a way to recreate the placards by using the ones provided by Dr. Daniele Provenzano. He said he will update the committee on the progress of the creation of the placards.
- b. Dr. Daniele Provenzano mentioned he is also submitting the laboratory placards to the committee for review to see if there are any other ideas for additions to them.
 - i. Dr. Daniele Provenzano mentioned Dr. Julie Mustard has already brought up a very good idea of adding a black space at the top of the cards, above the 'Important Safety Information' title, where the laboratory's room number can be written in.

2. BSL-2 & 3 Distinction

- a. Dr. Daniele Provenzano brought up the idea of adding a distinction on protocols in tick@lab for lab personnel involved in BSL3 labs. Often, BSL3 studies will also have BSL2 components which can result in part of a lab's personnel being involved in BSL2 work only.
 - i. Dr. Daniele Provenzano mentioned making the distinction on tick@lab can help when it comes to training assignments, since personnel not conducting the BSL3 part of a project do not need to complete the BSL3 laboratory trainings.
 - ii. Dr. Daniele Provenzano presented a document to the committee outlining his proposal to add a column within each personnel section. This column, titled "Highest BSL Clearance," would appear next to each individual's name and include selectable options—such as BSL-2 or BSL-3—to indicate the level of containment work in which the personnel are involved.
 1. He mentioned the distinction could also be made in any other area of the protocol, the important part is to find a way to indicate these distinctions as it can help save time for administrative staff as well as personnel regarding training requirements.
 - iii. Ms. Cordelia Rasa mentioned adding a distinction on tick@lab is a good idea and adding the distinction within the personnel section would work.
 - iv. Dr. Julie Mustard asked if personnel lacking BSL-3 clearance enter BSL-3 labs and stated her understanding that untrained individuals are typically not allowed access.
 1. Ms. Cordelia Rasa confirmed this and mentioned she is the one who ensures only approved personnel have access and enter into BSL-3 labs.

She also clarified the item being discussed is changing the BSL-3 training requirement so that personnel who are not going into the BSL-3 labs are not required to complete the BSL-3 training.

2. Dr. Daniele Provenzano mentioned that adding the distinction on tick@ab can help with knowing what personnel will need the training and keep those who will not be in the BSL-3 lab from being required to take it. He also mentioned the distinction does not necessarily need to go exactly where he is proposing, it can be added somewhere else in the document if that works better.

H. OTHER BUSINESS

1. EHSRM Report:

- a. None.

2. LAR Report:

- a. Ms. Cordelia Rasa mentioned BSL-3 labs are active with animal work and doing well.

3. PAM Report:

- a. Dr. Mirayda Torres-Avila gave a brief report on PAM, informing the committee of her findings for this past year.

4. Additional Comments:

- a. Dr. Daniele Provenzano mentioned that if anyone in the committee becomes aware of any things that are adding too much burden to PIs that can be fixed administratively, to please make everyone aware.
 - i. Ms. Cordelia Rasa brought up blood samples and blood collection, stating that it would be a good idea to put together an institutional policy and create a clear institutional SOP that defines the entire blood sample workflow—from collection through processing (spinning and aliquoting) to preparation for storage. Doing this would set the criteria for exemption and make application processes easier.
 - ii. Dr. Daniele Provenzano asked if there's a way to incorporate this to the section on tick@lab, and MS. Cordelia Rasa said she will look in to it.

I. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:11 pm.

----APPROVAL OF MINUTES ----

These minutes were approved by the IBC on July 10, 2026.