

The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth Houston)
Institutional Biosafety Committee
January 08, 2026
Minutes

Meeting Attendance:

The IBC meeting was cancelled. No voting items (protocol reviews and significant amendments) were ready for review. Non-voting items (conditionally exempt protocols and administrative amendments) were included in the packet that was emailed to the committee members on January 08, 2026.

1. Call to Order

N/A

2. Conflicts of Interest

The Chairperson reminded the committee about the conflict of interest procedure. She also reminded the committee members that all protocols that are discussed at the meeting are to be considered confidential and are not to be discussed outside of the meeting with non-IBC members.

3. Review Previous Meeting Minutes (December 11, 2025)

Review and approval of December minutes will be done at the February meeting.

4. IBC Administrative Items

None

Recombinant or Synthetic Nucleic Acid Molecules Research Applications Review

During the review the committee assessed the containment levels as well as the facilities, procedures, practices and training and expertise of the personnel involved in recombinant or synthetic nucleic acid molecules research. The committee also reviewed agent characteristics, types of manipulations planned, sources of the inserted nucleic acid sequences, the nature of the inserted nucleic acid sequences and whether an attempt will be made to obtain expression of a foreign gene, and if so, the protein that will be produced. Furthermore, the PI must determine the applicable section(s) of the *NIH Guidelines*.

5. Clinical Protocol Reviews (HGT)

None

6. Protocol Reviews

None

7. Conditionally Exempt Protocol Reviews

None

8. Protocol Updates

a. Significant updates:

None

b. Administrative updates:

IBC-24-015 – Dr. Joao De Quevedo - “GHAPBR - New insights into the pathophysiology of Pediatric Bipolar Disorder using an in vitro human cellular model” AND “Comprehensive Phenotyping of Major Depressive Disorder Trajectory and Risk: Greater Houston Depression Registry (GHDR)” AND “Mitochondrial dysfunction associated with cognitive deficits and brain changes in Bipolar Disorder: Clinical and translational implications in the pathophysiology of the disease” AND “New insights into stressful events in Bipolar Disorder and Major Depressive Disorder using a cell-based in vitro model” AND “Relationship between elevated C-reactive protein and mitochondrial dysfunction in patients with Major Depressive Disorder” AND “Accelerated epigenetic aging and mitochondrial DNA copy number in bipolar disorder” AND “Neural-derived extracellular vesicles microRNAs in bipolar disorder: a peripheral window into the brain” AND “Circulating mitochondrial DNA as a potential link between the brain, mitochondrial dysfunction, and inflammation in Bipolar Disorder” AND “Understanding the Mitochondrial Heterogeneity in Bipolar Disorder” AND “Exploring the role of mitochondrial genetics and function in bipolar disorder endophenotypes” AND “UTHealth Houston Treatment-Resistant Psychiatric Disorders Cohort” AND “Association between peripheral biomarkers and clinical response to IV ketamine for Non-Psychotic Unipolar Major Depression and Bipolar I or II Depression: An open-label study” AND “Deep Brain Stimulation (DBS) Therapy for Treatment Resistant Depression” AND “Greater Houston Area Bipolar Registry” AND “Adjunctive Allogeneic Mesenchymal Stem Cells for Treatment-Resistant Bipolar Depression”

- **Removal of Personnel:** Rafaela Carneiro Cordeiro, Francisco Roddrigues da Silva, Bashar Asir, Mario Farag
- **Addition of Personnel:** Marcela Carbajal Tamez, Monica Armas Neira, Camila Texeira Pinheiro Gusmao
- **Addition of Location:** Biomedical and Behavioral Sciences Building 5104B and University Center Tower 1620S (for blood processing)

IBC-24-045 – Dr. Manish Shah - “Assessing CSF Flow Dynamics in Pediatric Hemorrhagic Hydrocephalus” AND “**Phase 0 Study Assessing Cervical Lymphatic Drainage in Patients with Subarachnoid Hemorrhage**”

- **Addition of Bolded Title**
- **Addition of Work:** CSF collection and analysis under HSC-MS-25-1055

IBC-24-051 – Dr. Xiaoming Du – “Enhancing Brain Connectivity in Schizophrenia through Neuromodulation”

- **Removal of location:** BBSB 5112
- **Addition of location:** BBSB 1230, 5104

IBC-26-014 – Dr. Xiaoming Du – “Bilateral Prefrontal and Insular TMS for Depression in Schizophrenia”

- **Removal of location:** BBSB 5112
- **Addition of location:** BBSB 1230, 5104

IBC-26-019 – Dr. Shervin Assassi – “Combined Optical Coherence Elastography and Tomography for Assessing Skin Involvement in Systemic Sclerosis” AND “**To define the molecular profile of patients with pre- scleroderma and identify predictors/correlates of progression**”

- **Addition of bolded title**
- **Addition of work:** RNA extraction of the serum and skin samples from Fondazione IRCCS Ca' Granda Ospedale Maggiore Policlinico-Milan

9. BSL-3 Update

None

10. Biological Safety Program Activity Report

The Biological Safety Program Activity Report was included in the packet for review.

11. Environmental Protection Program Activity Report

The Environmental Protection Program Safety Program Activity Report was not available in the packet.

12. Other Items

None

13. Next Meeting

The meeting is scheduled for February 12, 2026, via Microsoft Teams from 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM.

14. Adjournment

N/A