

The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth Houston)
Institutional Biosafety Committee
July 10, 2025
Minutes

The July 2025 IBC Meeting was cancelled. This packet only contains non-voting items.

1. Call to Order

Not applicable

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 (June 12, 2025)

Will be reviewed and approved at the August 14, 2025 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

IBC-25-078– Dr. Georgene Hergenroeder – “Biomarkers for pain in spinal cord injury (SCI) (HSC-MS-07-0452)” AND “Clinical Interventions to Increase Organ Procurement,

Nutritional Status and Enteral Absorption Capability after Brain Death (HSC-MS-08-0473)” AND “Neurosciences Research Repository (NRR) (HSC-MS-08-0413)” AND “The National Center for Testing Treatments for Chronic Spinal Cord and Traumatic Brain Injury (HSC-MS-15-0705) (NCTT)” AND “The Will Erwin Headache Research Center Study of Cluster Headache and Trigeminal Neuralgia (WEC): Creating a Cellular Model of Cluster Headache: Human Fibroblasts to Study Circadian Rhythms (HSC-MS-15-0780)” AND “Discovery of Biomarker Signatures Prognostic for Neuropathic Pain after Acute Spinal Cord Injury (HSC-MS-19-0258) (BSCIP)”

IBC-25-081 – Dr. Sunil Krishnan - “Assessment of drivers of chemoradiation response in cervical cancer patients undergoing definitive treatment using pre vs. post treatment tissue and blood samples”

8. Protocol Updates

a. Significant updates:

None

b. Administrative updates:

IBC-21-034 – Dr. Jayhun Lee – “Developmental Regulation of Parasite Survival and Immune Evasion by Schistosoma”

- **Removal of personnel:** Theresa Sullivan, Evelyn Carrion, Nadia Khalil
- **Addition of rDNA:** dsRNA (foxA, gata4, prdm1, meg-8.2, meg-8.3, meg-8.4, six1, hox, igf, zfp, foxL, npf, and fzd)

IBC-21-082 – Dr. Steven Norris – “Physiologic Characteristics of Treponema pallidum” & “Infection of Rabbits with Treponema pallidum” & “Factors Affecting Treponema pallidum in vitro multiplication and gene transcription” & “Factors affecting long-term in vitro culture of Treponema pallidum”

- **Addition of Personnel:** Karan Kaval

IBC-22-007 – Dr. David Rodriguez Buritica – “An Open-Label Dose-Escalation Study to Evaluate the Safety, Tolerability, Pharmacokinetics, and Pharmacodynamics of mRNA-3745 in Participants with Glycogen Storage Disease Type 1a (GSD1a)” AND “A Phase 1/2, adaptive, open-label, single ascending dose to multiple ascending dose study to evaluate the safety, tolerability, pharmacokinetics, and pharmacodynamics of mRNA-3745 in participants with glycogen storage disease type 1a (GSD1a), followed by an open-label extension”

- **Clinical protocol updated** to reflect new dose of IND (from 0.5 mg/kg to 1.0 mg/kg), and to allow for additional optional cohorts as well as for dose escalation between cohorts.
- **Investigator brochure updated** (now v4.0) to reflect new safety monitoring related to elevated transaminases, storage conditions, and planned number of participants.
- **Pharmacy manual updated** (now v10.0) to clarify preparation and administration details.

IBC-22-018 – Dr. Laura Goetzl – “CNS-Derived Fetal Extracellular Vesicles for the Non-Invasive Diagnosis of Fetal CNS CMV Infection”

- **Addition of personnel:** Brigid Roth
- **Removal of personnel:** Baharan Fekry

IBC-22-029 – Dr. Fabricio Do Monte - “**Neural circuits balancing reward-approaching with threat-avoidance**” AND “**Probing brain circuit and behavior with protein:protein interaction modulators**” AND “**Corticothalamic circuits mediating behavioral adaptations to unexpected reward omission**”

- **Update titles:** removal of “Thalamic circuits in the integration of fear and reward” AND “Investigating the role of prefrontal cortex circuits in opioid-induced risk-taking behavior”; addition of bolded titles
- **Update Protocol Summary:** to include “Additionally, using transgenic rats expressing Cre-recombinase in specific neural populations (e.g., CRFR1, DR1, DR2), we will be able to transduce specific proteins (e.g., fluorescent reporters, opsins, artificial receptors) selectively in cells that express Cre-recombinase.”
- **Update RAM approvals for additional laser**
- **Update AWC #:** AWC-19-0103 to AWC-22-0094
- **Update rat strains:** remove CRFR1 Cre (at BBSB and MSB) and Long Evans (at MSB); add D1R-Cre, D2R-Cre, and CRFR1 (to BBSB)
- **Update personnel:** remove Douglas Engelke, Cana Quave, and Xu Zhang; add Thays Brenner dos Santos and Vicky Chuong
- **Update BSC certification date:** from 10/26/21 to 12/5/24

IBC-23-018 – Dr. Sunil Krishnan – “Rational translation of gold nanoparticle mediated radiosensitization to the clinic” AND “Enhancing immune mediated head and neck cancer anti-tumor activity using nanoparticles” AND “Enhancing Chemoradiation Efficacy through Unbiased Drug Discovery Approaches” AND “Triggered expression of cellular stress signals followed by guided delivery of cytotoxic payloads - a novel paradigm with broad anti-cancer applicability”

- **Addition of bioagent:** Antibody (AF647-HSPA5 antibody)

IBC-23-034 – Dr. Keran Ma – “Cell interactions in Alzheimer’s disease”

- **Addition of rDNA:** AAV strains (AAV1-hSynap.iGABASnFR, AAV1hSyn.iGluSnFR3.v857.PDGFR, AAV9-mDlx-GCaMP6f-Fishell-2)
- **Addition of bioagents:** AAV strains (AAV1-hSynap.iGABASnFR, AAV1hSyn.iGluSnFR3.v857.PDGFR, AAV9-mDlx-GCaMP6f-Fishell-2); Mouse Brain Tissue, Mouse blood
- **Addition of personnel:** Suelyn Koerich, Nioosha Nekooie Marnany

IBC-23-037 – Dr. Ji Young Yoo – “Oncolytic Herpes Simplex Virus-1 (oHSV) Therapy for Cancer”

- **Addition of bioagents:** Murine brain tumor cells (005, 005-OVA, CT2A, CT2A-OVA); Human gliolastoma cell lines (GBM12-miRCTRL and GBM12-miR-433); Lentiviral vectors (plenti-teton-miR-Ctrl and plenti-teton-miR-433)
- **Addition of personnel:** Stephanie Bean and Jiyeon Kim

IBC-23-042 – Dr. Laura Goetzl – “Biomarkers of Fetal Hypoxic Neuronal Injury”

- **Addition of personnel:** Brigid Roth
- **Removal of personnel:** Baharan Fekry

IBC-23-086 – Dr. Rodrigo Morales – “Shedding, retention and spreading of chronic wasting disease prions in the environment” AND “Systematic evaluation of the zoonotic potential of different CWD isolates” AND “Evaluation of surface-bound prions in disease transmission” AND “Assessment of PMCA and RT-QuIC for CWD diagnosis in animal and environmental samples”

- **Addition of bioagents:** Prions contained in tick and dung beetle homogenates

IBC-24-027 – Dr. Kevin Lin – “The role of Protein Arginine Methyltransferases in neurovascular coupling and brain diseases”

- **Addition of personnel:** Peter Rodriguez

IBC-24-043 – Dr. Federica Pisaneschi – “Evaluation of Different Radiopharmaceuticals in Various Cancer and Inflammation Models”

- **Addition of bioagents:** Human prostate cancer cell lines (MIA-PaCa 2, BxPC-3), Mouse cancer cells (KPC)
- **Addition of animal strain:** Mice (C57BL/6J-Trem2em2Adjiuj/J)
- **Removal of location:** South Campus Research Building III 6.4225
- **Addition of location:** South Campus Research Building III 1.3430

IBC-25-016 – Dr. Andrew Pountain – “Transcriptional heterogeneity in microbial growth and pathogenesis”

- **Addition of rDNA:** Staphylococcus aureus (JE2 and mutants)
- **Addition of bioagent:** Staphylococcus aureus (JE2 and mutants)

IBC-25-020 – Dr. David Rodriguez Buritica – “A PHASE 1/2, DOSE-EXPLORATION STUDY TO EVALUATE THE SAFETY AND EFFICACY OF BEAM-301 IN PATIENTS WITH GLYCOGEN STORAGE DISEASE TYPE IA (GSDIA) HOMOZYGOUS OR COMPOUND HETEROZYGOUS FOR THE G6PC1 c.247C>T (p.R83C) VARIANT”

- **Clinical protocol updated** to reflect new dose of corticosteroid in premedication regimen as well as changes to the schedule of assessments, exclusion criteria, and pregnancy reporting.

IBC-25-034 – Dr. Laura Goetzl – “Human Milk Exosomes: Effects on Gut Microbiota in NICU-admitted neonates”

- **Removal of personnel:** Baharan Fekry

IBC-25-037 – Dr. Jennifer Walker – “Investigation of interactions that facilitate chronic infections” AND “Influence of Pocket Irrigants on Breast Implant Infections”

- **Addition of personnel:** Ryan Allen
- **Removal of personnel:** Kaushani Das Biswas

IBC-25-046 – Dr. Louise McCullough – “BioRepository of Neurological Disorders”

- **Addition of personnel:** Maya Hoffman

IBC-25-050 – Dr. Xiangdong Lyu – “Stress Responses in Tumor Progression and Therapy Resistance”

- **Addition of personnel:** Ganfei Xu, Liuqing Yang

IBC-25-053 – Dr. Laura Goetzl – “Neuroinflammation in response to ascending reproductive tract ureaplasma infection”

- **Addition of personnel:** Brigid Roth

- **Removal of personnel:** Baharan Fekry

9. BSL-3 Update

No BSL-3 updates

10. Biological Safety Program Activity Report

The Biological Safety Program Activity Report was provided in the packet for the committee to review.

11. Environmental Protection Program Activity Report

The Environmental Protection Program Activity Report was provided in the packet for the committee to review.

12. Other Items

None

13. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for August 14, 2025, 3:00-4:00 pm, via Microsoft Teams

14. Adjournment

Not applicable