Minutes of Regular IBC Meeting

Date: June 9, 2025
Location: Remote via Zoom
Call to Order: D. Loy called the meeting to order at 2:31 PM
Members Present: H. Blair, T. George, K. Heath, A. Hilske, D. Loy, A. Mitra, K. O'Neill, W. Niu, N. Sexton, M. Wiebe, D. Zinniel
Ex-Officio Advisors: D. Hamernik B. Osthus, R. Wenzl, S. Quinn
Others: R. Cederberg, S. Gardner, A. Jungck, E. Schulz
Review of Minutes from 5/12/2025 Meeting:
Motion to approve minutes made by H. Blair, and seconded by K. O'Neill.
Minutes approved unanimously as written.
Abstained: None.

Declaration of Conflicts of Interest:
N. Sexton on Protocol 1362.

I. PUBLIC SESSION

A. Old Business:

1. Tabled Protocol registrations:

NuRamp ID:	1293
Form ID:	**26055**
TITLE:	**Cytokine effect on T cell plasticity and imbalance phenotype in normal context and pathogenic infection by Influenza and In Vitro Evaluation of Drug Combination Efficacy Against Various Respiratory Pathogens**
PI:	**Rada Amin Ali**
DEPT:	Biochemistry
REVIEWED BY:	Full IBC Committee
Project Biosafety Level:	**BSL-2, ABSL-2 (Animal)**
NIH Guidelines reference:	N/A
Date of IBC Review:	**5/12/2025**
Last IBC Motion:	Table pending addressing the following:
Contingencies/Issues:	• Clarification on containment enhancements needed for proposed work
PI Response:	**PI and BSO updated Section X-Risk Assessment/Safety Considerations to reflect agreed upon Biosafety level 2/Animal Biosafety level 2 enhancements**
IBC MOTION:	Approve with the following contingencies:

Contingencies/Issues:	• Dr. Amin completes bloodborne pathogens training.
Made by:	D. Zinniel
Seconded by:	N. Sexton
IBC ACTION:	***Adopted by voice vote***
Abstained:	***None***

PROTOCOL Review Summary:

Review of Protocol:	The IBC Chair provided an overview of the protocol and opened discussion to the committee.
Summary of Project(s):	This project aims to assess the antiviral efficacy of the combinatorial drug A and drug B against various respiratory pathogens in vitro and determine the drug combination's efficacy and toxicity on infected cells. Efficacy studies moved to small animal model in this Amendment.
Risk Assessment Considerations:	
Genetic Material:	N/A
Vector system:	N/A
Microbiological agents:	Influenza A
Organisms:	Mouse
OTCC:	N/A
Toxins:	N/A
IRB protocol(s):	☐Yes ☑No **SROC protocol:** ☐Yes ☑No
IACUC Protocol(s):	☑Yes ☐No
Facility/Safety Summary:	The Committee reviewed the description of the facilities to be used and safety procedures and determined the facilities are appropriate for the proposed containment level and work to be conducted. Additional concerns and required medical surveillance are described below.
Safety Concerns:	None.
Facility Concerns:	None.
Medical Surveillance:	Seasonal flu vaccine recommended.
Administrative issues:	
Current safety training for staff:	Dr. Amin needs to complete annual BBP training.
Current containment device certification:	Yes.

Date/Result of last EHS Survey:	Annual	**Findings:**
	4/30/2025	No findings.

IBC Discussion:	Animal work is currently awaiting IACUC approval, but there is no reason for the IBC to withhold approval. The described work in the amendment will not begin until it has gone through IACUC approval.

2. Protocols with Contingencies Met:

NuRamp ID:	**1452**
Form ID:	**26053**
TITLE:	**Highly pathogenic avian influenza viruses**
PI:	**Hiep Vu**
DEPT:	Animal Science
Project Biosafety Level:	**BSL-3, ABSL-3 (Animal)**
NIH Guidelines reference:	III-D-4, III-D-4-a
Date of IBC Review:	**5/12/2025**
IBC MOTION:	Approve with the following contingencies: • Upload current APHIS permit to protocol
IBC ACTION:	***Adopted by voice vote***
PROTOCOL NOTES:	
Date of PI Response:	**5/12/2025**
PI Response:	Current permit uploaded by the biosafety staff on 5/12/2025.
Additional Comments:	None.

NuRamp ID:	1350
Form ID:	**25900**
TITLE:	**Optimized Molecular and RNAi-Based Approaches for Detecting Arthropod-Borne Pathogens and Silencing Target Transcripts in Insects**
PI:	**Leslie Rault**
DEPT:	Entomology
Project Biosafety Level:	BSL-2
NIH Guidelines reference:	III-F-1, III-F-2, III-E, III-D-4-a
Date of IBC Review:	**3/10/2025**
IBC MOTION:	Approve with the following contingencies: • Final BSO approval of facility modifications, lab-specific SOPs, and completion of required safety training.
IBC ACTION:	***Adopted by voice vote***
PROTOCOL NOTES:	
Date of PI Response:	**5/13/2025**
PI Response:	Satisfactory facility walk-through and review of SOPs has been completed by the BSO, lab member with training deficiencies has left.
Additional Comments:	None.

B. New Business:

1. New Protocol Registrations:

NuRamp ID:	1500
Form ID:	**25943**

TITLE:	**Field Parasitology Teaching and Research**
PI:	**Scott Gardner**
DEPT:	School of Biological Sciences
REVIEWED BY:	Full IBC Committee
Project Biosafety Level:	BSL-2
NIH *Guidelines* reference:	N/A
IBC MOTION:	Approve with the following contingencies:
Contingencies/Issues:	• All lab members complete the required training.
Made by:	K. Heath
Seconded by:	K. O'Neill
IBC ACTION:	***Adopted by voice vote***
Abstained:	***None.***

PROTOCOL REVIEW SUMMARY:

Review of Protocol:	Dr. Gardner provided an overview of the protocol and the IBC Chair opened discussion to the committee.
Summary of Project(s):	Animals will be collected, necropsied and their parasites will be saved and identified.
Risk Assessment Considerations:	
Genetic Material:	N/A
Vector system:	N/A
Microbiological agents:	Endoparasites
Organisms:	Various field animals from western NE, ectoparasites
OTCC:	N/A
Toxins:	N/A
IRB protocol(s):	☐Yes ☑No **SROC protocol:** ☐Yes ☑No
IACUC Protocol(s):	☑Yes ☐No
Facility/Safety Summary:	The Committee reviewed the description of the facilities to be used and safety procedures and determined the facilities are appropriate for the proposed containment level and work to be conducted. Additional concerns and required medical surveillance are described below.
Safety Concerns:	None
Facility Concerns:	None
Medical Surveillance:	Zoonotic pathogen exposure monitoring
Administrative issues:	
Current safety training for staff:	Staff need to complete biosafety training 100, 101, and 201.
Current equipment certification:	Yes.
Date/Result of Pre-approval Safety Survey:	6/26/2024 — **Findings**: All findings addressed.
IBC Discussion:	The Committee asked the PI about how students are educated about zoonotic pathogens and whether the PI had previously had LAIs associated with a teaching lab.

2. Protocol Amendments:

NuRamp ID:	**1362**
Form ID:	**26065**
Initial Approval Date:	3/17/2023
TITLE:	**Understanding Arthropod-borne infection, replication mechanisms, codon usage, and host influences on the virus genome**
PI:	**Nicole Sexton**
DEPT:	School of Biological Sciences
REVIEWED BY:	Full IBC Committee
Protocol Biosafety Level:	**BSL-2, ACL-2 (Arthropod)**
NIH Guidelines reference:	III-F-1, III-F-8, C-I, C-II, III-E, III-E-1, III-D-1-a, III-D-1-b, III-D-2-a, III-D-3-a (previously approved work, proposed Amendment work exempt)
IBC MOTION:	Approve with the following contingencies:
Contingencies/Issues:	• Lab member completes BBP training
Made by:	M. Wiebe
Seconded by:	H. Blair
IBC ACTION:	***Adopted by voice vote***
Abstained:	N. Sexton
PROTOCOL NOTES:	
Review of Protocol:	Dr. Sexton provided an overview of the protocol and the IBC Chair opened discussion to the committee.
Summary of Project(s):	We are interested in exploring the dynamics and biology of South Bay virus and blacklegged tick phleboviruses and how they impact tick biology. We are also interested in whether they are truly tick-specific since recent evidence demonstrates the viruses are able to access tick saliva.
Changes to the Protocol:	Added a collaborative project assessing whether tick-specific viruses are truly tick-specific, with a focus on the highly prevalent (in ticks) South Bay virus and blacklegged tick phleboviruses (Bunyaviruses). Also updated personnel.
Risk Assessment Considerations:	
Genetic Material:	N/A
Vector system:	N/A
Microbiological agents:	SBV, BLTPV
Organisms:	N/A
OTCC:	Tick homogenates
Toxins:	N/A
IRB protocol(s):	☐Yes ☑No **SROC protocol:** ☐Yes ☑No
IACUC Protocol(s):	☐Yes ☑No
Facility/Safety Summary:	The Committee reviewed the description of the facilities to be used and safety procedures and determined the facilities are appropriate for the proposed containment level and work to be

	conducted. Additional concerns and required medical surveillance are described below.
Safety Concerns:	None.
Facility Concerns:	None.
Medical Surveillance:	None.
Administrative issues:	
Current safety training for staff:	Lab worker needs to complete annual BBP training.
Current equipment certification:	Yes.
Date/Result of last EHS Survey:	Annual: 2/13/2025 — **Findings:** All findings addressed.
IBC Discussion:	The Committee asked PI what types cell lines (previously described on protocol) the lab would be trying to grow tick-specific viruses in, PI clarified vertebrate cells.

NuRamp ID:	**1364**
Form ID:	**26067**
Initial Approval Date:	**3/28/2023**
TITLE:	**Molecular and cellular interactions between plants and plant pathogenic bacteria**
PI:	**Clemencia Rojas**
DEPT:	Plant Pathology
REVIEWED BY:	Full IBC Committee
Protocol Biosafety Level:	**BSL-1, BSL-1-P (Plant)**
NIH Guidelines reference:	III-F-1, III-F-2, III-F-8, C-II, C-III, III-E, III-E-2, III-E-2-a, III-D-2-a
IBC MOTION:	Approve as written.
Contingencies/Issues:	• None
Made by:	A. Mitra
Seconded by:	D. Zinniel
IBC ACTION:	***Adopted by voice vote***
Abstained:	None.

PROTOCOL NOTES:

Review of Protocol:	The IBC Chair provided an overview of the protocol and opened discussion to the committee.
Summary of Project(s):	Research in the lab focuses on understanding the interactions between plants and plant pathogenic bacteria. The protocols described include inoculating bacterial pathogens in different plants. Subsequent experiments include isolating bacteria from inoculated tissues and conducting additional tests to evaluate plant responses to the pathogens, including gene expression by isolating RNA.
Changes to the Protocol:	Section II: New rice gene editing project Section V: Rice plant entry updated to reflect delivery of rNA Section IV: Added 3 new plasmids and gRNA Included a new lab member in Personnel

Risk Assessment Considerations:	
Genetic Material:	3 new plasmids and gRNA for gene editing in rice, 6 differentially expressed genes associated with disease resistance will be targeted first.
Vector system:	N/A
Microbiological agents:	N/A
Organisms:	N/A
OTCC:	N/A
Toxins:	N/A
IRB protocol(s):	☐Yes ☑No **SROC protocol:** ☐Yes ☑No
IACUC Protocol(s):	☐Yes ☑No
Facility/Safety Summary:	The Committee reviewed the description of the facilities to be used and safety procedures and determined the facilities are appropriate for the proposed containment level and work to be conducted. Additional concerns and required medical surveillance are described below.
Safety Concerns:	None.
Facility Concerns:	None.
Medical Surveillance:	None.
Administrative issues:	
Current safety training for staff:	Yes.
Current equipment certification:	Yes.
Date/Result of last EHS Survey:	Annual: 5/20/2025 — **Findings:** No findings.
IBC Discussion:	The Committee had no concerns about this amendment to Dr. Rojas' protocol.

3. Notice of NIH Exempt Protocol Approvals: None

4. Notice of Administratively Approved Amendments: None

5. Notice of Minor Modification Forms Approved:

See attached report for a list of all Minor Modification forms received and approved since the last meeting.

6. Notice of Protocol Annual Updates Received:

See the attached report for a list of all Annual Update forms received and approved since the last meeting.

7. Notice of Protocol Terminations: None

C. Other Business:

1. EHS Report

- See attached report

II. ADJOURN

Motion: K. Heath
2nd: D. Loy
Time Adjourned: 3:26 PM

Minor Modification Forms Approved since Last IBC Meeting

Form ID	IBC Project ID	Approval Date	ProjectTitle	Protocol Status	Form Status	Lead PI	Form Changes
UNL-00026079	UNL-00000026	6/2/2025	Structure-Function Studies of Redox Proteins	Approved	Approved	Mark Wilson	Personnel
UNL-00026073	UNL-00001377	5/28/2025	Evaluating the effect of dietary interventions on human health and the gut microbiome.	Approved	Approved	Edward Deehan	Personnel
UNL-00026071	UNL-00001262	5/15/2025	Studying interactions between cationic polymers and wild-type/antibiotic-resistant bacteria	Approved	Approved	Shudipto Dishari	Personnel
UNL-00026062	UNL-00000174	5/9/2025	Studies on protein structures and functions including Xenopus oocytes	Approved	Approved	Hideaki Moriyama	Personnel

IBC Annual Update Form Approvals
since last IBC Meeting

Form ID	Approval Date	IBC Project ID	Project Title	Protocol Status	Form Status	Lead PI	Amendment Needed
UNL-00026078	6/2/2025	UNL-00001302	Molecules controlling the induction and maintenance of hibernation in mammals	Approved	Approved	Matthew Andrews	**No**
UNL-00026077	5/22/2025	UNL-00000174	Studies on protein structures and functions including Xenopus oocytes	Approved	Approved	Hideaki Moriyama	**No**
UNL-00026075	5/29/2025	UNL-00001370	Applied soybean research with endemic plant pathogens	Approved	Approved	Dylan Mangel	**No**
UNL-00026064	5/9/2025	UNL-00000315	Characterization of African Swine Fever Virus proteins	Approved	Approved	Gustavo Delhon	**No**

EHS/Biosafety Officer Report for IBC meeting on 6/9/2025

Biosafety Recurring Audits Since last meeting:

BSL-2	BSL-1
• 5 labs	• 2 labs

Pre-approval Audits:

- None

Most cited deficiencies

Deficiency	EHS Checklist Code	Number of Deficiencies	Number Corrected
Disinfectants are expired or containers not appropriately dated	BIO01	1	0
Emergency eyewash or shower concern	CHE10	3	0
Biohazardous spill kit issue	BIO03	1	0
Biohazardous waste not in secondary containment	BIO04	1	0
Required chemical safety training has not been completed	OTH02	3	0

Follow-up discussion regarding disinfectant related deficiencies from lab safety surveys:
30 out of 53 findings in the last year were due to expired disinfectants present in the lab space

BSL-3 Lab Updates

- Select Agent Renewal Inspection with USDA is scheduled for June 24th-25th.

Post approval Monitoring since Last IBC meeting:

- None

Other Activities: *(New personnel for MODL, regulation updates, news, new/revised policies, etc.)*

- *NIH Strengthens Transparency Measures for Institutional Biosafety Committees* reminder email sent June 2, 2025, and included a *Template and Points to Consider* document for meeting minute expectations. A copy is attached to our meeting page and it can be found on NIH's website (https://osp.od.nih.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Minutes-PtoC-and-Template.pdf).