University of Nebraska – Lincoln Institutional Biosafety Committee

Minutes of Regular IBC Meeting

Date: January 12th, 2026

Location: Remote via Zoom
Call to Order: 2:30
Members Present: H. Blair (BSO), T. George (Community Member), K. Heath (Animal SME), D. Loy (Chair), A. Mitra (Plant SME), W. Niu (Member), K. O'Neill (Community Member), N. Sexton (Member), S. Tatineni (Member), M. Wiebe (Member), D. Zinniel (Lab Rep)
Members Absent: A. Hilske (Plant SME)
Quorum Met: Yes
Ex-Officio Advisors: D. Hamernik, B. Osthus
Others: R. Cederberg, L. Gregurek, A. Jungck, E. Schulz, K. Evans
Review of Minutes from December 8, 2025 Meeting:
Motion to approve minutes made by K. Heath, 2nd by D. Zinniel
Minutes approved unanimously as written.
For: 8
Against: 0
Abstained: 3
Declaration of Conflicts of Interest: None

I. PUBLIC SESSION

A. Old Business:

1. Tabled Protocol registrations: None

2. Protocols with Contingencies Met:

NuRamp ID:	264
Form ID:	**26147**
TITLE:	**Biochemistry and genetics of metabolism and symbiosis in micro-organisms**
PI:	**Wayne Riekhof**
DEPT:	School of Biological Sciences
Project Biosafety Level:	BSL-2
NIH Guidelines reference:	III-F-1, III-F-2, III-F-3, III-F-5, III-F-6, III-F-8, C-II, C-III, C-IV, C-VI, III-E, III-D-1-a
Date of IBC Review:	**10/13/2025**
IBC MOTION:	Approved contingent all lab members complete required training.

PROTOCOL NOTES:

Date of PI Response:	**12/2/2025**
PI Response:	Training has been completed.
Additional Comments:	None.

B. New Business:

1. New Protocol Registrations: None

2. Protocol Amendments:

NuRamp ID:	28
Form ID:	26286
TITLE:	UNL BPDF - Process Development and Pre-clinical Manufacturing of Recombinant Proteins
PI:	Scott Johnson
DEPT:	Biological Process Development Facility
Protocol Biosafety Level:	BSL-1-LS (Large Scale)
NIH Guidelines reference:	III-F-2, III-F-6, III-E, III-D-2-a, III-D-6
IBC MOTION:	Approve as written.
Contingencies/Issues:	• None
Made by:	M. Wiebe
Seconded by:	W. Niu
IBC Vote:	
For:	10
Against:	0
Abstained:	1

PROTOCOL NOTES:	
Review of Protocol:	The IBC Chair provided an overview of the protocol and opened discussion to the committee.
Summary of Project(s):	Added project for a client, for expression of a human transcription factor, involved in enhancing mammalian cell culture growth. Expression will occur in E. coli using pET28a.
Changes to the Protocol:	Section V: Updated gene targets
Risk Assessment Considerations:	
Genetic Material:	Recombinant HOXB
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.

Safety Concerns:	None.
Facility Concerns:	None.
Vaccines/Medical Surveillance:	N/A
Administrative issues:	
Current safety training for staff:	Yes.
Current equipment certification:	Yes.

Date/Result of last EHS Survey:	Annual	**Findings:**
	2/14/2025	No findings.

IBC Discussion:	The Committee had no questions about amendment.

NuRamp ID:	1380
Form ID:	26301
TITLE:	Production and storage of African Swine Fever Virus (ASFV) vaccine master seed.
PI:	Scott McVey
DEPT:	School of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences
Protocol Biosafety Level:	BSL-3
NIH Guidelines reference:	III-E, III-D-3-e
IBC MOTION:	Approve as written.
Contingencies/Issues:	• None.
Made by:	H. Blair
Seconded by:	N. Sexton
IBC Vote:	
For:	11
Against:	0
Abstained:	0

PROTOCOL NOTES:

Review of Protocol:	The IBC Chair provided an overview of the protocol and opened discussion to the committee.
Summary of Project(s):	Work consists of propagation of ASFV vaccine strains in cultured swine macrophages with the goal of obtaining master seeds.
Changes to the Protocol:	A second vaccine virus, that will be used for vaccine seed preparation. An FSAP amendment has already been completed and approved.
Risk Assessment Considerations:	
Genetic Material:	N/A
Vector system:	N/A
Microbiological agents:	ASFV vaccine strain
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.
Safety Concerns:	None.
Facility Concerns:	None.
Vaccines/Medical Surveillance:	N/A
Administrative issues:	
Current safety training for staff:	Yes.
Current equipment certification:	Yes.
Date/Result of last EHS Survey:	Annual: 11/18/2025 — **Findings:** No findings.
IBC Discussion:	The Committee asked for clarification on the difference between the new vaccine strain and the original. The Committee had no concerns adding the new strain to the protocol's existing procedures.

NuRamp ID:	76
Form ID:	26294
TITLE:	Regulation of the PutA Protein and Proline Metabolism
PI:	Donald Becker
DEPT:	Biochemistry
Protocol Biosafety Level:	BSL-2
NIH Guidelines reference:	III-F-3, III-F-4, III-F-8, C-I, C-II, C-III, III-E, III-D-4-a
IBC MOTION:	Approve with the following contingencies:
Contingencies/Issues:	• Required training is completed
Made by:	D. Zinniel
Seconded by:	K. O'Neill
IBC VOTE:	
For:	11
Against:	0
Abstained:	0

PROTOCOL NOTES:

Review of Protocol:	
Summary of Project(s):	We study the cellular function of bacterial and human enzymes involved in proline metabolism. This involves purifying enzymes from bacterial expression systems and for human enzymes, characterizing them also in mammalian cell culture. A new effort in the lab is to determine the sub-cellular localization of specific proline metabolic enzymes in a mammalian cell.

Changes to the Protocol:	We will be ordering new protein expression vector constructs for proline metabolic enzymes in E. coli and mammalian cells. Section I - III-E-1 and III-D-3-a guidelines added for the new work, personnel changes, added new Co-PI Section II - research summary added and description of new work in the technical description Section III - Lentiviral vector Section IV - new human cell lines Section VI - new mitochondrial and reporter gene targets, lentivirus, new plasmids for packaging (redox and proline metabolic enzymes projects), and pcDNA3.1 Section VIII - added collaborator lab space
Risk Assessment Considerations:	
Genetic Material:	New mitochondrial and reporter gene targets, lentivirus, new plasmids for packaging (redox and proline metabolic enzymes projects), and pcDNA3.1
Vector system:	Lentiviral vector
Microbiological agents:	Lentivirus
Organisms:	N/A
OTCC:	New human cell lines
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.
Safety Concerns:	None.
Facility Concerns:	None.
Vaccines/Medical Surveillance:	Hepatitis B Vaccine
Administrative issues:	
Current safety training for staff:	A lab member needs to complete annual BBP training.
Current equipment certification:	Yes.
Date/Result of last EHS Survey:	Annual: 3/21/2025 — **Findings:** All findings addressed.
IBC Discussion:	The Committee commented on this amendment being similar to PI's previous work. The BSO informed the committee that the protocol had previously listed lentivirus as goals for future use, but had not yet updated entries with the necessary information about lentiviral packaging plasmids. The Committee was satisfied with PI's updated information.

3. Notice of NIH Exempt Protocol Approvals: None

4. Notice of Administratively Approved Amendments:

NuRamp ID:	615
Form ID:	**26263**
TITLE:	**Metabolic Engineering and Synthetic Biology**
PI:	**Wei Niu**
DEPT:	Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering
Project Biosafety Level:	BSL-2
NIH Guidelines reference:	III-F-1, III-F-2, III-F-3, III-F-4, III-F-8, C-II, C-III, III-E, III-D-2-a
PROTOCOL NOTES:	
IRB protocol:	☐Yes ☑No **SROC protocol:** ☐Yes ☑No
IACUC Protocol:	☐Yes ☑No
Objective of Study:	Proteins of interest, such as the adenylation domain of a carboxylic acid reductase or a nonribosomal peptide synthetase, will be fused to the C terminus of the Aga2p peptide and displayed on the surface of a yeast strain. Functional display of the protein will be assessed through biochemical assays.
Changes to the Protocol:	Add new Addgene kits for protein expression in yeast cells. These kits will only be used for yeast surface display, not for protein secretion. Associated with project described in July 2025 Amendment.
Review comments:	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:

NuRamp ID:	**210**
TITLE:	**26304**
PI:	**Qingsheng Li**
DEPT:	School of Biological Sciences
Project Biosafety Level:	**BSL-2, ABSL-2 (Animal)**
Project Termination Date:	12/16/2025
PROTOCOL NOTES:	
IRB protocol(s):	☐Yes ☑No **SROC protocol:** ☑Yes ☐No
IACUC Protocol(s):	☑Yes ☐No

Disposition of rDNA and agents:	Agents, sharps containers and biowaste bags have been autoclaved/destroyed.

C. Other Business:

1. EHS Report

II. ADJOURN

Motion: K. Heath
2nd: D. Loy
Time Adjourned: 2:52

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-00026313	1/6/2026	UNL-00001416	Management veterinary pest insects by RNAi/miRNA	Approved	Approved	John Wang	**No**
UNL-00026312	1/6/2026	UNL-00001040	Ungulate and handling and sampling protocol	Approved	Approved	John Benson	**No**
UNL-00026311	1/5/2026	UNL-00000237	Role of the protein quality control in mitochondrial homeostasis and stress response	Approved	Approved	Oleh Khalimonchuk	**Yes**
UNL-00026310	1/6/2026	UNL-00001241	Role of Kisspeptin in Reproductive Function of Pigs	Approved	Approved	Brett White	**No**
UNL-00026308	1/6/2026	UNL-00000587	Biomedical and Obesity Research Core (BORC) providing molecular and cellular biology assays and metabolic phenotyping measurements	Approved	Approved	Jingjie Hao	**No**
UNL-00026292	12/4/2025	UNL-00001133	Modification of plants for an increase in photosynthesis, water use efficiency and chilling resistance.	Approved	Approved	Katarzyna Glowacka	**No**
UNL-00026290	12/4/2025	UNL-00000780	Corn, Sorghum, and Soybean Extension Pathology Lab Protocol	Approved	Approved	Tamra Jackson-Ziems	**No**
UNL-00026287	12/4/2025	UNL-00000820	Nanoparticles for delivery into brain cancer	Approved	Approved	Forrest Kievit	**No**

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-00026303	UNL-00001150	12/19/2025	Analysis of immune and endocrine biomarkers from human vaginal fluid, saliva, and blood	Approved	Approved	Tierney Lorenz	Disinfectant
UNL-00026288	UNL-00000073	12/2/2025	Growth Factor Involvement in Gonadal Development and Function	Approved	Approved	Andrea Cupp	Personnel

EHS/Biosafety Officer Report for IBC meeting on 1/12/2026

Biosafety Recurring Audits Since last meeting: Morrison, VBMS, Food Innovation Complex

BSL-2	BSL-1
• Pattnaik, Asit	• Cai, Xiwen

Pre-approval Audits:

- Leonard, Heidi

Most cited findings

Finding	EHS Checklist Code	Number of Findings	Number Corrected
Disinfectants are expired or containers not appropriately dated	BIO01	1	0
Biohazard spill kit incomplete or missing	BIO03	1	0
Incomplete training	OTH02	1	0

BSL-3 Lab Updates

- MODL inventory move complete
- MODL final decontamination started
- In-person trainings scheduled for January

Other Activities: *(Regulation updates, news, new/revised policies, etc.)*

N/A