

Minutes of Regular IBC Meeting

Date: February 9th, 2026

Location: Remote via Zoom

Call to Order: 2:31

Members Present: H. Blair (BSO), T. George (Community Member), K. Heath (Animal SME), A. Hilske (Plant SME), D. Loy (Chair), A. Mitra (Plant SME), N. Sexton (Member), S. Tatineni (Member), M. Wiebe (Member), D. Zinniel (Lab Rep)

Members Absent: W. Niu (Member), K. O’Neill (Community Member),

Quorum Met: Yes

Ex-Officio Advisors: D. Hamernik, B. Osthus, R. Wenzl

Others: R. Cederberg, K. Evans, L. Gregurek, A. Jungck, O. Khalimonchuk, E. Schulz

Review of Minutes from 1/12/2026 Meeting:

Motion to approve minutes made by D. Zinniel, 2nd by K. Heath

Minutes approved unanimously as written.

For: 10

Against: 0

Abstained: 0

Declaration of Conflicts of Interest: None.

I. PUBLIC SESSION

A. Old Business:

1. **Tabled Protocol registrations: None**

2. **Protocols with Contingencies Met:**

NuRamp ID:	76
Form ID:	26294
TITLE:	Regulation of the PutA Protein and Proline Metabolism
PI:	Donald Becker
DEPT:	Biochemistry
Project 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
Date of IBC Review:	1/12/2026
IBC MOTION:	Approve contingent required training is completed.
PROTOCOL NOTES:	
Date of PI Response:	1/12/2026
PI Response:	All required training has been completed.
Additional Comments:	None.

B. New Business:**1. New Protocol Registrations: None****2. Protocol Amendments:**

NuRamp ID:	199
Form ID:	26339
TITLE:	Study of gut microbial community structure and function using metagenomics and metatranscriptomics approaches in ruminants and non-ruminants
PI:	Samodha Fernando
DEPT:	Department of Animal Science
Protocol Biosafety Level:	BSL-2, ABSL-2, BSL-1-P
NIH Guidelines reference:	III-F-4, III-F-6, III-F-8, C-II, C-III, C-V, C-VI, III-E, III-D-2-a, III-D-4, III-D-4-a
IBC MOTION:	Approve with the following contingencies:
Contingencies/Issues:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Required training is completed
Made by:	M. Wiebe
Seconded by:	D. Zinnel
IBC Vote:	
For:	7
Against:	0
Abstained:	3
PROTOCOL NOTES:	
Review of Protocol:	The IBC Chair provided an overview of the protocol and opened discussion to the committee.
Summary of Project(s):	We study how microbial populations (including viruses) change with diet, disease and physiological status in ruminant and non-ruminant species, as well as understanding the role of microbes in animal health and productivity. Additionally, in vivo projects will pursue possible probiotic microbes to improve animal health.
Changes to the Protocol:	Technical description Section II - Clarifying statement that animals will be fed a genetically engineered <i>Bacillus pumilus</i> strain or <i>B. lichenformis</i> strain. Animal study descriptions updated to state delivery of <i>Bacillus</i> strain rather than specific strain. Section V - engineered <i>Bacillus pumilus</i> strain or <i>B. lichenformis</i> strain to sheep and goats
Risk Assessment Considerations:	
Genetic Material:	N/A
Vector system:	N/A
Microbiological agents:	Engineered <i>Bacillus pumilus</i> strain or <i>B. lichenformis</i> strain
Organisms:	Sheep or goat
OTCC:	N/A

Toxins:	N/A	
IRB protocol(s):	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	SROC protocol: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
IACUC Protocol(s):	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Facility/Safety Summary:		
Safety Concerns:	None.	
Facility Concerns:	None.	
Vaccines/Medical Surveillance:	N/A	
Administrative issues:		
Current safety training for staff:	PI needs to complete training.	
Current equipment certification:	Yes.	
Date/Result of last EHS Survey:	Annual 9/10/2025	Findings: All findings addressed.
IBC Discussion:	The Committee discussed proposed animal inoculation procedures and agreed that the change from <i>Bacillus pumilus</i> to <i>Bacillus licheniformis</i> was fine, as both are commonly used in food industry and probiotic applications with similar safety procedures.	

NuRamp ID:	197
Form ID:	26234
TITLE:	Fungal/algal/bacterial symbiosis, development, and morphogenesis
PI:	Rajib Saha
DEPT:	Department of Biological Systems Engineering
Protocol Biosafety Level:	BSL-1
NIH Guidelines reference:	III-F-4, III-F-8, C-II, III-E
IBC MOTION:	Approve as written.
Contingencies/Issues:	• None.
Made by:	H. Blair
Seconded by:	D. Zinniel
IBC Vote:	
For:	9
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):	Our work integrates microbial diversity, microbial ecology, genetic engineering, and genome-scale metabolic modeling to improve and identify genes involved in symbioses with photosynthetic microbes, melanin yield, melanin titer, and substrate utilization. We aim to predict symbiotic biosynthetic pathways and characterize metabolic interactions between

	community members and postulate non-intuitive genetic interventions for increased melanin release.	
Changes to the Protocol:	Section I, PI change from Wayne Riekhof to Rajib Saha and Erin Carr Updated NIH Guidelines (III-D-2-a for the Cas9 gene editing work) Section II - provided a new research summary, updated technical description of the research Section III - Removed <i>Aspergillus nidulans</i> , <i>Neurospora crassa</i> , and <i>Penicillium chysogenum</i> (moved to storage in Othmer, see note at the end of this section). Added <i>Anabaena inaequalis</i> (cyanobacteria), <i>Trichorma variabilis</i> (cyanobacteria), and <i>Coccomyxa simplex</i> (microalgae); updated <i>Exophiala dermatitidis</i> entry to <i>Exophiala viscosa</i> (fungi), Updated room locations.	
Risk Assessment Considerations:		
Genetic Material:	regA gene sequences, two new plasmids	
Vector system:	N/A	
Microbiological agents:	<i>Anabaena inaequalis</i> and <i>Trichorma variabilis</i> , (cyanobacteria), <i>Coccomyxa simplex</i> (microalgae), <i>Exophiala viscosa</i> (fungi)	
Organisms:	N/A	
OTCC:	N/A	
Toxins:	N/A	
IRB protocol(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
IACUC Protocol(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
SROC protocol:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Facility/Safety Summary:		
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 1/16/2025	Findings: No findings.
IBC Discussion:	The Committee had no concerns about the protocol and confirmed the new PI has been listed on the permit since 2022 and is familiar with the approved protocols. The newly added materials are environmental samples not known to be pathogenic.	

NuRamp ID:	1271
Form ID:	26108
TITLE:	Mechanisms of ribonucleoprotein folding and assembly
PI:	Catherine Eichhorn
DEPT:	Department of Chemistry
Protocol Biosafety Level:	BSL-2
NIH Guidelines reference:	III-F-1, III-F-2, III-F-3, III-F-8, C-I, C-II, III-E, III-E-1, III-D-2-a
IBC MOTION:	Approve as written.
Contingencies/Issues:	• None.
Made by:	N. Sexton
Seconded by:	M. Wiebe
IBC Vote:	
For:	10
Against:	0
Abstained:	0

PROTOCOL NOTES:**Review of Protocol:****Summary of Project(s):**

The research objectives are to overexpress affinity-tagged RNA-binding proteins of interest in E. coli BL21 strain and purify in order to obtain protein samples. These samples will be used to study RNA-protein interactions using biochemical experiments, and to solve high-resolution structures of protein and RNA-protein complexes.

Changes to the Protocol:

Summary of updates:
 Section I: Update personnel, new proteins and genetic elements.
 Section IV: Sf9 cell line added, protein overexpression via transient transfection of plasmids
 Section VI: insect expression system plasmid; Human rhinovirus 14 3C protease, CCNT1 (Cyclin T1), protein ladder elements

Risk Assessment Considerations:

Genetic Material:	plasmid (insect expression system); Human rhinovirus 14 3C protease, CCNT1 (Cyclin T1), pPSU10-30-50-100, and genetic elements for protein ladders
Vector system:	N/A
Microbiological agents:	N/A
Organisms:	N/A
OTCC:	Sf9
Toxins:	N/A

IRB protocol(s):

Yes No **SROC protocol:** Yes No

IACUC Protocol(s):

Yes No

Facility/Safety Summary:

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:
	10/28/2025	All findings addressed.
IBC Discussion:	The Committee discussed the addition of new plasmids, cell lines and different genetic elements for insect expression and deemed it a natural progression of the PI's current research.	

NuRamp ID:	237
Form ID:	26317
TITLE:	Role of the protein quality control in mitochondrial homeostasis and stress response
PI:	Oleh Khalimonchuk
DEPT:	Department of Biochemistry
Protocol Biosafety Level:	BSL-2
NIH Guidelines reference:	III-F-1, III-F-4, III-F-5, III-F-8, C-I, C-II, C-III, III-E, III-E-1, III-D-2-a, III-D-3-a, III-D-4-a
IBC MOTION:	Approve with the following contingencies:
Contingencies/Issues:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any necessary USDA permit is acquired.
Made by:	D. Loy
Seconded by:	K. Heath
IBC Vote:	
For:	10
Against:	0
Abstained:	0

PROTOCOL NOTES:

Review of Protocol:	PI provided an overview of the protocol and opened discussion to the committee.
Summary of Project(s):	The overall vision of the proposed research program is to determine how evolutionary conserved mitochondrial quality control modules function to maintain cell survival, and how these functions can be manipulated to achieve clinical benefits.
Changes to the Protocol:	We are requesting an amendment to include three new modifications to our current protocol. These include introduction of the new murine Sequestosome protein gene, and the gene-based fluorescent reporter (GFP-p62) expressed from the new mammalian expression vector. This construct will be used to analyze the Sequestosome protein aggregation as a readout for altered protein homeostasis in a series of our models. Finally, we are requesting the addition of a new experimental organism, an apicomplexan Babesia divergens (RG 2 organism), which will be used to study its impact on

mitochondrial bioenergetics and their heme metabolism in the host HEK293 cells.	
Risk Assessment Considerations:	
Genetic Material:	Sequestosome protein
Vector system:	N/A
Microbiological agents:	Babesia divergens
Organisms:	N/A
OTCC:	N/A
Toxins:	N/A
IRB protocol(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No SROC protocol: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
IACUC Protocol(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Facility/Safety Summary:	
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 3/4/2025
	Findings: All findings addressed.
IBC Discussion:	The Committee discussed that while tick transmission is typical for this organism, the proposed research does not involve tick work; instead, sharps use was identified as the primary safety concern and will be clarified in the protocol. The Committee also confirmed appropriate equipment containment and noted that USDA permitting requirements must be verified. Approval is contingent upon meeting any applicable regulatory requirements.

NuRamp ID:	36
Form ID:	26302
TITLE:	Regulation of Ovarian Somatic Cell, Oocyte, Embryo, and Placenta mRNA and Protein Expression
PI:	Jennifer Wood
DEPT:	Animal Science
Protocol Biosafety Level:	BSL-2
NIH Guidelines reference:	III-F-1, III-F-2, III-F-6, III-F-8, C-II, C-VII, C-VIII, III-E
IBC MOTION:	Approve with the following contingencies:
Contingencies/Issues:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff completes required training.
Made by:	D. Zinniel
Seconded by:	K. Heath
IBC Vote:	

For: 10
 Against: 0
 Abstained: 0

PROTOCOL NOTES:**Review of Protocol:****Summary of Project(s):**

Use epitranscriptomics tools to understand fundamental reproductive processes, using functional and mechanistic approaches to advance our understanding of cellular mechanisms essential for oocyte quality, ovarian function, and embryo development.

Changes to the Protocol:

Page 1, Title updated to reflect expansion of work
 Selected III-E of the NIH guidelines (cell line transfections), removed III-E-1.
 Updated Research Description (Project 1-4 descriptions are new)
 Page 2, Section III, new strains of E. coli added
 Section IV, Updated Cell and Tissue Culture information (new cell lines mBVSC-ESC, STO, JAR, TS^{CT}, KGN)
 Section V, Updated Research Organism information
 Page 3, Section VI, updated Nucleic Acid information (RNA binding proteins, 3' UTR)
 Page 4, Section VIII, added Facilities Information
 Page 5., Updated Lab Procedures, Sharps use information.

Risk Assessment Considerations:

Genetic Material: RNA binding proteins, 3' UTR
 Vector system: N/A
 Microbiological agents: New strains of E. coli
 Organisms: New mouse line
 OTCC: mBVSC-ESC, STO, JAR, TS^{CT}, KGN
 Toxins: N/A

IRB protocol(s):

Yes No **SROC protocol:** Yes No

IACUC Protocol(s):

Yes No

Facility/Safety Summary:

Safety Concerns: None.
 Facility Concerns: None.
 Vaccines/Medical Surveillance: N/A

Administrative issues:

Current safety training for staff: Two lab members need to complete annual BBP training.
 Current equipment certification: Yes.

Date/Result of last EHS Survey:

Annual

7/25/2025

Findings:

No findings.

IBC Discussion:

The Committee had no concerns about the proposed changes, as the risk profile remains the same due to the continued use of similar materials. Clarification was made that only core

facilities were updated, while the primary laboratory space remains unchanged.

3. Notice of NIH Exempt Protocol Approvals: None

4. Notice of Administratively Approved Amendments:

NuRamp ID:	1338
Form ID:	26309
TITLE:	Viral Control of Cell Fate
PI:	Lindsey Crawford
DEPT:	Department of Biochemistry
Project Biosafety Level:	BSL-2, ABSL-2
NIH Guidelines reference:	III-F-1, III-F-3, III-F-8, C-II, C-VII, III-E-1, III-D-1-a, III-D-2-a, III-D-3-a, III-D-4, III-D-4-b
PROTOCOL NOTES:	
IRB protocol:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
IACUC Protocol:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
SROC protocol:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Objective of Study:	Much of our work seeks to understand how individual viral genes contribute to pathogenesis and how viral manipulation of the cell (including regulation of key cellular processes) leads to global changes throughout the host. Our main focus is on the human betaherpesviruses - common, chronic infections that cause disease during pregnancy and in immunocompromised individuals. We study how these viruses interact with other infectious agents and health conditions to contribute to changes in the whole host.
Changes to the Protocol:	Modification portion: 1) Addition of plasmid: Plasmids for lentivirus and general expression using the EF1alpha promoter already approved, this plasmid is a different version with same considerations. Included on updated plasmid inventory. (pLVV-EGFP) 2) Page 2 (and corresponding questions page 3): Addition of cell line: Endothelial cells, including primary cells (e.g. HUVEC), are already approved. Adding HDLE - dermal (adult) endothelial cells. 3) Removed MOLR 229, shared space, sonicator relocated to MOLR 230.
Review comments:	None.

NuRamp ID:	1318
Form ID:	26295
TITLE:	Extracellular Vesicles, muscle metabolism, muscle mass, and miRNAs.
PI:	Ivan Vechetti

DEPT: Department of Nutrition and Health Sciences
Project Biosafety Level: BSL-2, ABSL-2
NIH Guidelines reference: III-F-2, III-F-3, III-F-4, III-F-8, C-II, C-VIII, III-E-3, III-D-3-a, III-D-4-a

PROTOCOL NOTES:

IRB protocol: Yes No **SROC protocol:** Yes No
IACUC Protocol: Yes No

Objective of Study: Studying extracellular vesicles released in the circulation (both in murine and squirrels) to determine if the cargo within these vesicles could be used as biomarkers or to enhance general health. In addition, we are also investigating microRNAs, signaling pathways, and metabolic pathways that could regulate muscle mass during muscle growth or atrophy in adult and old rodents.

Changes to the Protocol: Section I - 2 new UNMC collaborators added, new funding sources
 Section II - research description update to reflect LEAP2 KO mouse
 Section V - Adding new mouse line to test muscle atrophy

Review comments: None.

NuRamp ID: 7
Form ID: 26296
TITLE: **BAF: An Intrinsic Host Defense Responsive to Foreign DNA**
PI: **Matthew Wiebe**
DEPT: School of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences
Project Biosafety Level: BSL-2
NIH Guidelines reference: III-F-1, III-F-2 III-F-3 III-F-4 III-F-5 III-F-7, III-F-8, C-I, C-II, III-E-1, III-D-2-a, III-D-3-a

PROTOCOL NOTES:

IRB protocol: Yes No **SROC protocol:** Yes No
IACUC Protocol: Yes No

Objective of Study: The central goal of our research is to better understand host-pathogen interactions involving immune defenses targeting foreign DNA.

Changes to the Protocol: Added three new cell lines.

Review comments: None.

NuRamp ID: 1126
Form ID: 26297
TITLE: **Molecular characterization of common animal viral pathogens**
PI: **Hiep Vu**
DEPT: Department of Animal Science
Project Biosafety Level: BSL-2, ABSL-2
NIH Guidelines reference: III-F-6, III-E, III-E-1, III-D-1-a, III-D-2-a, III-D-3-a, III-D-4-a, III-D-7

PROTOCOL NOTES:

IRB protocol: Yes No **SROC protocol:** Yes No

IACUC Protocol:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Objective of Study:	Objective is to identify the mechanisms that the viruses (particularly PRRSV) use to enter susceptible cells and characterize the animal immune responses to natural viral infection or vaccination to identify viral components that are capable of inducing immunity.
Changes to the Protocol:	Updated personnel Add Technical Description of Proposed Research to section 2/ Add funding sources Section III - Cordyceps militaris added - for sequencing project
Review comments:	None.

NuRamp ID:	402
Form ID:	26293
TITLE:	Evaluation of prion fate in waste disposal
PI:	Shannon Bartelt-Hunt
DEPT:	Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering
Project Biosafety Level:	BSL-2
NIH Guidelines reference:	N/A
PROTOCOL NOTES:	
IRB protocol:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
IACUC Protocol:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Objective of Study:	This protocol involves the evaluation of prions in waste disposal and other environmental applications. We will investigate the infectivity and fate of prions in simulated waste disposal reactors and develop methods for analysis of prions from environmental matrices such as compost.
Changes to the Protocol:	Addition of experimental plans for prion detection in animal carcass compost. Updated liquid waste disposal to autoclave only
Review comments:	None.

NuRamp ID:	457
Form ID:	26278
TITLE:	Plant-virus RNA silencing Laboratory Safety Information and Procedures
PI:	Hernan Garcia Ruiz
DEPT:	Nebraska Center for Virology
Project Biosafety Level:	BSL-1, BSL-1-P (Plant)
NIH Guidelines reference:	III-F-1, III-F-3, III-F-4, III-E-1, III-E-2, III-E-2-a, III-D-2-a, III-D-3-e
PROTOCOL NOTES:	
IRB protocol:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
IACUC Protocol:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Objective of Study:	The goal of our research program is to identify both plant and viral genes and to elucidate their molecular mechanism of activity.
Changes to the Protocol:	Additional gene editing vectors were added and described.
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:	1479
TITLE:	Biotechnology of risk assessment using genetically engineered microbes
PI:	Samodha Fernando
DEPT:	Animal Science
Project Biosafety Level:	ABSL-2 (Animal), BSL-1-P (Plant)
Project Termination Date:	2/2/2026
PROTOCOL NOTES:	
IRB protocol(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No SROC protocol: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
IACUC Protocol(s):	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Disposition of rDNA and agents:	Protocol was combined with Dr. Fernando's IBC 199.

C. Other Business:

1. EHS Report

- A new biosafety policy aligned with NIH Guidelines is under development. The proposed approach shifts the focus away from oversight of plant and animal pathogens and places greater emphasis on biomedical research activities. This update reinforces the primary role of the IBC, which is to conduct thorough risk assessments and ensure appropriate safety measures are implemented to protect laboratory personnel and the research environment.

2. Confidentiality Agreement

- A new IBC Confidentiality Agreement has been developed for Committee members to sign. The agreement covers protocol reviews, discussions related to proposed and approved research, and other official IBC business. All meeting attendees will be required to sign the agreement. Formal

approval of the document will be placed on next month's agenda to allow members time to review it.

3. Conflict of Interest

- Proposed new Conflict of Interest (COI) statements for the UNL IBC. This was drafted to protect Committee members who are involved in research activities and to ensure transparency and appropriate removal from protocol review or decision-making when a conflict exists.

II. ADJOURN

Motion: D. Loy

2nd: H. Blair

Time Adjourned: 3:22

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-00026165	2/2/2026	UNL-00001342	Carbon salvage in Carbapenem-resistant <i>Klebsiella pneumoniae</i>	Approved	Approved	Greg Somerville	No
UNL-00026355	2/2/2026	UNL-00001262	Studying interactions between cationic polymers and wild-type/antibiotic-resistant bacteria	Approved	Approved	Shudipto Dishari	No
UNL-00026353	1/30/2026	UNL-00001361	Impact of Honey on Inflammation and Metabolic Health	Approved	Approved	Weiwen Chai	No
UNL-00026351	2/2/2026	UNL-00000467	Development of plants that are cold tolerant or have altered chloroplast morphologies.	Approved	Approved	Rebecca Roston	No
UNL-00026349	2/2/2026	UNL-00000234	Culture of cells in tissue engineering models	Approved	Approved	Srivatsan Kidambi	No
UNL-00026343	1/30/2026	UNL-00000084	Production and Purification of Fibrinogen Components for the Production of a Fibrin Sealant Hemostatic Dressing	Approved	Approved	Bill Velandar	No
UNL-00026340	1/30/2026	UNL-00000054	Foodborne Pathogen Detection	Approved	Approved	Jayne Stratton	No
UNL-00026337	1/28/2026	UNL-00000015	Regulation of autoimmunity	Approved	Approved	Jay Reddy	No
UNL-00026336	1/22/2026	UNL-00000192	Genetic tools for transformation of <i>Chlamydomonas</i> and <i>Tetraselmis</i>	Approved	Approved	Heriberto Cerutti	No
UNL-00026333	1/28/2026	UNL-00001364	Molecular and cellular interactions between plants and plant pathogenic bacteria	Approved	Approved	Clemencia Rojas	No
UNL-00026315	1/9/2026	UNL-00000069	Chlorella Viruses	Approved	Approved	James Van Etten	No
UNL-00026314	1/9/2026	UNL-00000719	The role of fatty acids in placenta, liver, brain, eye and fetal health	Submitted to Biosafety Officer	Approved	Sathish Kumar Natarajan	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-00026357	UNL-00001361	2/2/2026	Impact of Honey on Inflammation and Metabolic Health	Approved	Approved	Weiwen Chai	Personnel
UNL-00026352	UNL-00001150	2/2/2026	Analysis of immune and endocrine biomarkers from human vaginal fluid, saliva, and blood	Approved	Approved	Tierney Lorenz	Personnel
UNL-00026350	UNL-00000055	2/2/2026	Gene regulation and signaling in the fungal model organism Candida	Approved	Approved	Kenneth Nickerson	Personnel
UNL-00026341	UNL-00001338	2/2/2026	Viral Control of Cell Fate	Approved	Approved	Lindsey Crawford	Personnel
UNL-00026323	UNL-00001450	1/16/2026	Understanding the Cognitive and Brain Health in Relation to Diet and	Approved	Approved	Doug Schultz	Personnel
UNL-00026322	UNL-00001362	1/16/2026	Understanding Arthropod-borne infection, replication mechanisms,	Approved	Approved	Nicole Sexton	Personnel
UNL-00026319	UNL-00000181	1/9/2026	Ecology of ticks and tick-borne microorganisms in Nebraska	Approved	Approved	Roberto Cortinas	Disinfectant

EHS/Biosafety Officer Report for IBC meeting on 2/9/2026

Biosafety Recurring Audits Since last meeting: Morrison, Food Industry Complex, Leverton

BSL-2	BSL-2	BSL-1
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Hao, JingjieJohnson, ScottClausing, ElizabethNatarajan, SathishAngeletti, PeterWiebe, Matt	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Crawford, LindseyVechetti, IvanSattler, ScottBednarski, TomaszMurrieta, Charles	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Garcia-Ruiz, HernanVan Etten, JamesIsom, LorenTatineni, Satyanarayana

Pre-approval Audits:

- None

Most cited findings

Finding	EHS Checklist Code	Number of Findings	Number Corrected
Disinfectants are expired or containers not appropriately dated	BIO01	5	2
Biohazard spill kit incomplete or missing	BIO03	2	0
Incomplete training	OTH02	1	0
Porous furniture and surfaces	BIO05	1	0

BSL-3 Lab Updates

- MODL lab decontamination complete, the HVAC decontamination cycle has not yet passed

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

- Strengthening and Modernizing Biosafety Oversight Regional Listening Sessions
<https://osp.od.nih.gov/policies/biosafety-and-biosecurity-policy#tab2/>
 - Region 5: 2/12/26 <https://osp.od.nih.gov/events/strengthening-and-modernizing-biosafety-oversight-region-5-listening-session/>
 - Region 6: 2/26/26 agenda and link not yet available
 - NIH estimates a new policy draft will be released for comments in Fall 2026. Comments now have more impact on the policy.
 - This will **not** be a rewrite of the NIH Guidelines; it will be a new policy.
 - NIH Goals with the policy:
 - Develop a risk-based framework that allows institutions to allocate resources effectively
 - Develop a modern biosafety oversight paradigm that is transparent, adaptive, and accountable
 - Empower IBCs and reinforce consistency with IRBs and IACUCs
 - Work with government partners
- Confidentiality Agreement and Conflict of Interest Statement