

Minutes of Regular IBC Meeting

Date: August 10th, 2026

Location: Remote via Zoom

Call to Order: D. Loy called the meeting to order at 2:33 PM

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

Members Absent: A. Hilske (Plant SME), K. O'Neill (Community Member), M. Wiebe (Member)

Quorum Met: Yes

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

Others: R. Cederberg, A. Jungck, K. Evans

Review of Minutes from 7/20/2026 Meeting:

Motion to approve minutes made by H. Blair, 2nd by K. Heath

Minutes approved unanimously contingent the attendance is corrected and the wording of Dr. Schmidt's protocol is changed from disapproved to denied.

For: 9

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:	1121
Form ID:	26520
TITLE:	Examining the role of the healthy gastrointestinal microbiome in preventing infection with antibiotic resistant pathogens
PI:	Jennifer Auchtung
DEPT:	Department of Food Science and Technology
Project Biosafety Level:	BSL-2, ABSL-2 (Animal)
NIH Guidelines reference:	III-F-4, III-F-8, C-II, C-V, III-D-1-a, III-D-2-a
Date of IBC Review:	7/20/2026
IBC MOTION:	Approve with the following contingencies: • Figure referenced is viewable in protocol.
IBC ACTION:	<i>Adopted by vote</i>
PROTOCOL NOTES:	
Date of PI Response:	N/A
PI Response:	N/A

Additional Comments:	Biosafety staff completed this contingency on behalf of the PI. The figure has been attached to Section XI.
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NuRamp ID:	1441
Form ID:	26549
TITLE:	Two-Year Duration of Immunity Study in Cats to Demonstrate the Efficacy of a Feline Leukemia Vaccine, Killed Virus
PI:	Paige Crumley
DEPT:	Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation
Project Biosafety Level:	ABSL-2
NIH Guidelines reference:	N/A
Date of IBC Review:	7/20/2026
IBC MOTION:	Approve with the following contingencies: BSO does a walkthrough to ensure animal spaces are adequate for the proposed work
IBC ACTION:	<i>Adopted by vote</i>
PROTOCOL NOTES:	
Date of PI Response:	N/A
PI Response:	N/A
Additional Comments:	BSO completed a satisfactory walkthrough of the spaces.

B. New Business:

1. New Protocol Registrations:

NuRamp ID:	1574
Form ID:	26451
TITLE:	Development of experimental vaccines for African Swine Fever Virus
PI:	Elizabeth Ramirez Medina
DEPT:	School of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences
Project Biosafety Level:	BSL-3
NIH Guidelines reference:	III-E, III-D-3-e
IBC MOTION:	Approve as written.
Contingencies/Issues:	None
Made by:	N. Sexton
Seconded by:	K. Heath
IBC ACTION:	<i>Adopted by vote</i>
For:	9
Against:	0
Abstained:	0
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):	Development of experimental vaccines for African Swine Fever Virus by genetic manipulation, using frozen/fresh Monocyte-Derived Macrophages to their production (infection/transfection) and propagation.	
Risk Assessment Considerations:	Genetic Material: ASFV ORF gene segments and fluorescent tags Vector system: N/A Microbiological agents: African Swine Fever Virus, <i>E. coli</i> Organisms: N/A OTCC: Primary swine blood macrophages 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:	None.	
Administrative issues:		
Current safety training for staff:	Yes.	
Current equipment certification:	Yes.	
Date/Result of Pre-approval Safety Survey:	5/5/2026	Findings: All findings addressed.
IBC Discussion:	BSO brought up while ASFV is not infectious to humans, it has the potential to be economically devastating, which is why this is a BSL-3 protocol.	

2. Protocol Amendments:

NuRamp ID:	1367
Form ID:	26544
TITLE:	Investigating the regulation of physiological metabolism and the pathogenic mechanism of metabolic diseases.
PI:	Tatsuya Yamada
DEPT:	Biochemistry
Protocol Biosafety Level:	BSL-2, ABSL-2 (Animal)
NIH Guidelines reference:	III-F-1, III-F-8, C-I, C-II, C-VII, III-E-1, III-D-3-e, III-D-4-a
IBC MOTION:	Approve with the following contingencies:
Contingencies/Issues:	Findings from SCS are resolved

Made by:	K. Heath	
Seconded by:	H. Blair	
IBC ACTION:	<i>Adopted by vote</i>	
	For:	9
	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):	The project 1 aim is to identify the genetic factors responsible for megamitochondria formation, with the ultimate goal of developing novel therapeutic targets to prevent or alleviate megamitochondria formation. Project 2 investigates how top-down signals from the central nervous system (CNS) control the functions of peripheral organs that regulate metabolism, such as the pancreas, adipose tissues, and livers.	
Changes to the Protocol:	I added three mouse genotypes to be used. The updated mouse usage is attached. Section II - description added to project 1 Section V - new mice added Section X - sharps section updated to include necropsy tools Section XI - new version of mouse usage file attached	
Risk Assessment Considerations:		
Genetic Material:	N/A	
Vector system:	N/A	
Microbiological agents:	N/A	
Organisms:	New mice strains	
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:	Diphtheria vaccine	
Administrative issues:		
Current safety training for staff:	Yes.	
Current equipment certification:	Yes.	
Date/Result of last EHS Survey:	Annual 4/21/2026	Findings: Expired disinfectant.

IBC Discussion:

The Committee confirmed the PI has also cleared new mouse work with IACUC.

NuRamp ID:	820
Form ID:	26553
TITLE:	Nanoparticles for delivery into brain cancer
PI:	Forrest Kievit
DEPT:	Biological Systems Engineering
Protocol Biosafety Level:	BSL-2, ABSL-2 (Animal)
NIH Guidelines reference:	III-F-1, III-F-8, C-I, C-II, C-VII, III-E, III-D-3-a, III-D-4-a, III-D-4-b
IBC MOTION:	Approve as written.
Contingencies/Issues:	None
Made by:	D. Loy
Seconded by:	D. Zinniel
IBC ACTION:	<i>Adopted by vote</i>
For:	9
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): The overall goal of this project is to improve the treatment of brain cancers. We do this by using nanoparticle delivery vehicles to selectively delivery potentially efficacious therapeutics into target brain cells limiting exposure to normal, off target tissue. For a second project, our overall goal is to utilize bioreservoir computing/neural biocomputing as an in vitro new approach methodology for testing of neurotherapeutics.

Changes to the Protocol: Add commercially available human induced pluripotent stem cell (iPSC) derived glutamatergic neurons to the protocol. The cells will just be cultured in lab for cell viability, culture on multi-electrode arrays, and imaging. These cells will not be used in vivo nor receive any viral vectors or exogenous nucleic acids.

Risk Assessment Considerations:

Genetic Material:	N/A
Vector system:	N/A
Microbiological agents:	N/A
Organisms:	N/A
OTCC:	iPSC neurons
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:	None.	
Administrative issues:		
Current safety training for staff:	Yes.	
Current equipment certification:	Yes.	
Date/Result of last EHS Survey:	Annual	Findings:
	4/15/2026	All findings addressed.
IBC Discussion:	The Committee asked about the Morris water maze mentioned in the research description, one of the animal experts on the committee explained it is a mouse behavioral assessment.	

NuRamp ID:	1264
Form ID:	26554
TITLE:	Approaches to understand cell-cell signaling
PI:	James Checco
DEPT:	Chemistry
Protocol Biosafety Level:	BSL-2
NIH Guidelines reference:	III-F-8, C-I, C-II, III-E
IBC MOTION:	Approve as written.
Contingencies/Issues:	None
Made by:	D. Zinniel
Seconded by:	N. Sexton
IBC ACTION:	<i>Adopted by vote</i>
For:	9
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):	Our lab aims to understand the chemical components and interactions that facilitate cell-to-cell communication. To accomplish this goal, we will take model cell lines or various tissues and extract their chemical components for analysis using several analytical methods (primarily liquid chromatography and mass spectrometry). We also study activation of cell surface receptors using biochemical assays. Other projects involve developing and evaluating molecules to bind to particular proteins of interest.

Changes to the Protocol:	Updated genes, E. coli strains, plasmids, tissues. Added 70% isopropanol as disinfectant.		
Risk Assessment Considerations:			
Genetic Material:	Ubiquitin-protein ligase, protein tags, linker sequences		
Vector system:	N/A		
Microbiological agents:	New E. coli strain		
Organisms:	N/A		
OTCC:	3 immortalized human cell lines and tissues from <i>Aplysia californica</i> , <i>Lymnaea stagnalis</i> , <i>Platynereis dumerilii</i>		
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:	Yes.		
Current equipment certification:	Yes.		
Date/Result of last EHS Survey:	Annual	Findings:	
	10/17/2025	No findings.	
IBC Discussion:	The Committee had no concerns about this amendment.		

3. Notice of NIH Exempt Protocol Approvals: None

4. Notice of Administratively Approved Amendments:

NuRamp ID:	1377		
Form ID:	26545		
TITLE:	Evaluating the effect of dietary interventions on human health and the gut microbiome.		
PI:	Edward Deehan		
DEPT:	Food Science and Technology		
Project Biosafety Level:	BSL-2		
NIH Guidelines reference:	N/A		
PROTOCOL NOTES:			
IRB protocol:	☒ Yes	☐ No	SROC protocol: ☐ Yes ☒ No
IACUC Protocol:	☐ Yes	☒ No	

Objective of Study:	Dietary Interventions: Research participants are asked to follow a dietary intervention such as consuming food products or supplements made with different dietary fiber ingredients or whole foods. Biospecimens such as blood, feces, and saliva are then collected for the analysis of health-related endpoints, functionality, metabolites, and the gut microbiome.
Changes to the Protocol:	We have added more details on a clinical trial that will aim to start this fall to assess the health benefits of sorghum. For this project, we also aim to collect saliva samples from participants, which have been added to the list of biospecimens.
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: None

C. Other Business:

1. EHS Report

II. ADJOURN

Motion: K. Heath

2nd: H. Blair

Time Adjourned: 3:04PM

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-00026552	UNL-00000131	7/22/2026	Genome Analysis of Variation in Important Traits	Approved	Approved	Daniel Ciobanu	Personnel

Form ID	Approval Date	IBC Project ID	Project Title	Protocol Status	Form Status	Lead PI	Amendment Needed
UNL-00026570	7/29/2026	UNL-00000110	Veterinary Systemic Pathology (VMED 672) Teaching Laboratory	Approved	Approved	Sarah Sillman	No
UNL-00026572	7/28/2026	UNL-00000792	Studies of Host/Microbiome interactions in health and disease	Approved	Approved	Jacques Izard	No
UNL-00026569	7/28/2026	UNL-00000661	Validation of food processing methods through microbial challenge testing	Approved	Approved	Andreia Bianchini Huebner	No
UNL-00026566	7/28/2026	UNL-00001302	Molecules controlling the induction and maintenance of hibernation in mammals	Approved	Approved	Matthew Andrews	No
UNL-00026562	7/28/2026	UNL-00000181	Ecology of ticks and tick-borne microorganisms in Nebraska	Approved	Approved	Roberto Cortinas	No
UNL-00026561	7/28/2026	UNL-00000312	Use of Cell Culture and DNA Transfection in Biological Systems Engineering Teaching Lab	Approved	Approved	Angie Pannier	Yes
UNL-00026559	7/28/2026	UNL-00001105	Understanding plant resistance to insects	Approved	Approved	Joe Louis	No
UNL-00026558	7/24/2026	UNL-00000940	Engineering of photosynthetic and anaerobic bacteria for bioproduct formation.	Approved	Approved	Rajib Saha	No
UNL-00026564	7/23/2026	UNL-00000730	Co-infections of Mycobacterium tuberculosis (Mtb) and Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Molecular Studies and Interventions	Approved	Approved	Shi-Hua Xiang	Yes
UNL-00025395	7/22/2026	UNL-00001309	Rural Drug Addiction Research (RDAR) Center	Approved	Approved	Rick Bevins	No
UNL-00026560	7/21/2026	UNL-00000049	Gene Delivery for Tissue Engineering and Therapeutic Applications	Approved	Approved	Angie Pannier	No