



Minutes of the CWRU Institutional Biosafety Committee

IBC of record for the Louis Stokes Cleveland VAMC

Meeting Date: June 11, 2026

Members Present:

Charles Bark, Cheryl Cameron, Ronald Conlon, Craig Hodges (Chair), Kenneth Matreyek, Monica Montano (Vice Chair), Sophia Onwuzulike, Ivy Samuels (VA rep), Koen van Besien, Pamela Vanderzalm, Marissa Wolfe, Andrew Young

Ex-Officio Members and Guests:

Colleen Karlo (ex-officio), Lorrie Rice

Meeting Convened: 3:00 PM via Zoom

The Chair reminded all members that any conflicts of interest related to a submission must be declared prior to the start of the discussion. Members with a conflict will be temporarily moved to the virtual waiting room for the duration of the relevant discussion.

Approval of Minutes

The IBC Chair asked members for discussion or additional changes to the draft minutes. There were minor changes recommended.

Motion: Approval of the May meeting minutes with the additional, specific changes.

For: 12 | Against: 0 | Conflict of Interest: 0 | Abstained: 0

Safety and Incident Reporting

The committee was informed about multiple labs working with genetically modified *Drosophila* that do not have an IBC protocol. One lab has submitted a protocol and it is on the agenda for the current meeting. A draft guidance document was sent to the committee with the meeting materials – it will serve as a resource for researchers working with *Drosophila*. EHS documentation (Exposure Control Plan) and review process have been updated to reference the NIH Guidelines and notify the IBC office of research that may require IBC oversight.



Review of New Protocols:

Investigator: Drew Adams

Project Title: Lentiviral targeting of diiron lipid oxidases

IBC Protocol: #IBC-2026-578

Project Overview, Risk Assessment and Discussion:

The researchers will use a third-generation lentiviral vector system - replication deficient, non-infectious virus - to deliver genetic material into human cells in culture. This viral system will carry CRISPR editing components, express reporter genes or genes of interest. These modified human cells will be injected into animal models and housed under standard housing conditions. Work practices, procedures, and facilities are consistent with BSL2 standards, and safe sharps practices and PPE are described.

NIH Guidelines: III-D-1, III-D-3, III-D-4

Training and Facilities: There are a few individuals that need training and they will be notified to complete training. There were no concerns regarding the facilities to accommodate the safety and containment requirements of the proposed experiments.

Vote: Approve at BSL2 with minor edits and completion of training.

For: 12 | Against: 0 | Conflict of Interest: 0 | Abstained: 0

Investigator: David Buchner

Project Title: Reducing the systemic metabolic toxicity of PI3K inhibitors

IBC Protocol: #IBC-2026-577

Project Overview, Risk Assessment and Discussion:

The proposed research utilizes genetically modified human breast cancer cell lines maintained and handled first in laboratory cell cultures. These modified human cells, along with direct human patient-derived tissue samples, will be injected into an animal model. Animals receiving PDX will be housed at ABSL2. Work practices, procedures, and facilities are consistent with BSL2 standards, and safe sharps practices and PPE are described.

NIH Guidelines: III-D-4

Training and Facilities: The Investigator and laboratory staff have completed training in the NIH Guidelines, lab safety, and biosafety. There were no concerns regarding the facilities to accommodate the safety and containment requirements of the proposed experiments.



Vote: Approve at BSL2 with minor edits.

For: 12 | Against: 0 | Conflict of Interest: 0 | Abstained: 0

Investigator: Nicole Crown

Project Title: Meiotic recombination in the Drosophila ovary

IBC Protocol: #IBC-2026-581

Project Overview, Risk Assessment and Discussion:

The proposed research includes the generation and use of genetically modified Drosophila. The lab uses non-exempt strains of E. coli for cloning to generate genetically modified flies; however, the injections are done by an external service provider. The lab will also purchase Drosophila strains from a repository. Some experimental crosses use a binary expression system for gene expression, others utilize CRISPR editing components, express RNAi for gene knockdown, or express tagged fusion proteins. Minor edits are needed to detail containment practices and disposal procedures.

NIH Guidelines: III-D-4

Training and Facilities: Training in the NIH Guidelines is needed, and one individual needs retraining in lab safety and biosafety. There were no concerns regarding the facilities to accommodate the safety and containment requirements of the proposed experiments.

Vote: Approve at BSL1 with an update to the procedures and completion of training.

For: 12 | Against: 0 | Conflict of Interest: 0 | Abstained: 0

Investigator: Stephanie Langel

Project Title: SARS-COV-2-Antibody complexes

IBC Protocol: #IBC-2026-572

Project Overview, Risk Assessment and Discussion:

The proposed experiments will utilize a replication-competent, engineered strain of the SARS-CoV-2 respiratory virus expressing a luciferase reporter marker gene. These recombinant virus particles will be used strictly within a laboratory cell culture environment with BSL2 enhanced containment. The biosafety enhancements include a hard-ducted biosafety cabinet (BSC), PPE to include a Tyvek suit and double gloves, surgical mask and faceshield. All procedures will be performed in the BSC and outer gloves will be removed and disposed of as biohazardous waste in the BSC. Due to location of equipment, there will be transportation of materials from the



BSL2+ laboratory to the BSL3 laboratory following the transport SOP including triple containment and disinfection.

NIH Guidelines: III-D-1

Training and Facilities: The Investigator and laboratory staff have completed training in the NIH Guidelines, lab safety, and biosafety. There were no concerns regarding the facilities to accommodate the safety and containment requirements of the proposed experiments.

Vote: Approve at BSL2 with enhanced procedures with minor edits.

For: 12 | Against: 0 | Conflict of Interest: 0 | Abstained: 0

Investigator: Kenneth Laurita

Project Title: Novel Treatments for Myocardial Infarction [REDACTED]

IBC Protocol: #IBC-2026-576

Project Overview, Risk Assessment and Discussion:

The proposed research will utilize synthetic, linear ribonucleic acid (RNA) sequences, including a long non-coding RNA, delivered via a chemical polymer carrier vector to an animal model. Details regarding the volume of the RNA delivered were provided to the committee and need to be incorporated into the study application. Work practices, procedures, and facilities are consistent with BSL1 standards, and safe sharps practices and PPE are described.

NIH Guidelines: III-D-4

Training and Facilities: : One individual needs training, and they will be notified to complete training. There were no concerns regarding the facilities to accommodate the safety and containment requirements of the proposed experiments.

Vote: Approve at BSL1 with minor edits and completion of training.

For: 12 | Against: 0 | Conflict of Interest: 0 | Abstained: 0

Review of Continuing Protocols:

Investigator: Stephanie Langel

Project Title: Maternal immunization for generation of potentially neutralizing antibodies in breast milk

IBC Protocol: #IBC-2023-471

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Project Overview, Risk Assessment and Discussion:

The research uses a recombinant adenoviral vector vaccine that is replication deficient. The vaccine will be administered to animal models and the animals housed at ABSL2 for 3 days following vaccine administration. Plasmids will be utilized for the generation of recombinant antibodies using cell culture techniques.

NIH Guidelines: III-D-1, III-E

Training and Facilities: Some training has expired and the individuals will be notified. There were no concerns regarding the facilities to accommodate the safety and containment requirements of the proposed experiments.

Vote: Approve at BSL2 with minor edits and completion of training.

For: 12 | Against: 0 | Conflict of Interest: 0 | Abstained: 0

Investigator: Xin Liu

Project Title: Innate immune response to microbial pathogens

IBC Protocol: #IBC-2023-487

Project Overview, Risk Assessment and Discussion:

The proposed research utilizes a third-generation, four-plasmid lentiviral vector system to express CRISPR editing components and reporter genes to genetically modify murine cells in a tissue culture environment. The modified cells will subsequently be transferred into whole animal models. Additionally, animal models will be exposed to specific bacterial and viral pathogens, including genetically altered strains of *Legionella pneumophila*, Influenza A virus, and Vaccinia virus, and these animals will be housed at ABSL2. Work practices, procedures, and facilities are consistent with BSL2 standards, and safe sharps practices and PPE are described.

NIH Guidelines: III-D-1, III-D3, III-D-4

Training and Facilities: The Investigator and laboratory staff have completed training in the NIH Guidelines, lab safety, and biosafety. There were no concerns regarding the facilities to accommodate the safety and containment requirements of the proposed experiments.

Vote: Approve at BSL2 with minor edits.

For: 12 | Against: 0 | Conflict of Interest: 0 | Abstained: 0

Investigator: David Wald

Project Title: Genetic Modifications of NK cells

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IBC Protocol: #IBC-2020-370

Project Overview, Risk Assessment and Discussion:

This study involves the genetic modification of human and mouse immune cells, Natural Killer (NK) cells and T cell, to enhance their ability to target and destroy cancer cells. Using modified viral delivery vehicles (lentiviruses and retroviruses), researchers will insert human and animal-derived recombinant nucleic acid molecules (including Chimeric Antigen Receptors) into these immune cells. The modified cells will first be grown and evaluated in cell culture inside a laboratory before being injected into animal models where they will be housed in a standard housing room. Work practices, procedures, and facilities are consistent with BSL2 standards, and safe sharps practices and PPE are described.

NIH Guidelines: III-D-1, III-D3, III-D-4

Training and Facilities: Some training has expired and the individuals will be notified. There are a few room numbers that need to be updated in the study application.

Vote: Approve at BSL2 with minor edits.

For: 12 | Against: 0 | Conflict of Interest: 0 | Abstained: 0

Review of Amendments:

Investigator: Wenjian Gan

Project Title: Elucidating Novel PRMT Regulatory Mechanisms and Their Roles in Tumorigenesis

IBC Protocol: #IBC-2025-560

Project Overview, Risk Assessment and Discussion:

The study team will overexpress genes of interest using replication deficient lentiviral vectors or knock out/down the genes using lentiviral-based CRISPR-Cas9 vector or shRNA vector to transduce human cells in culture. The amendment adds a new gene and updates personnel. Work practices, procedures, and facilities are consistent with BSL2 standards and appropriate for the planned research.

NIH Guidelines: III-D-1, III-D3, III-D-4

Training and Facilities: The Investigator and laboratory staff have completed training in the NIH Guidelines, lab safety, and biosafety. There were no concerns regarding the facilities to accommodate the safety and containment requirements of the proposed experiments.

Vote: Approve at BSL2

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For: 12 | Against: 0 | Conflict of Interest: 0 | Abstained: 0

Investigator: Reshmi Parameswaran

Project Title: Regulation of Natural Killer cell function by NF- κ B.

IBC Protocol: #IBC-2016-244

Project Overview, Risk Assessment and Discussion:

This research study involves the use of human and rodent immune and cancer cell lines using replication deficient lentiviral vectors or plasmid vectors to upregulate genes, knock down genes with shRNA, or knock out genes using CRISPR/Cas9. The amendment involves the addition of new funding, new personnel, new cell lines and new gene targets for editing. Work practices, procedures, and facilities are consistent with BSL2 standards and appropriate for the planned research.

NIH Guidelines: III-D-1, III-D-3, III-D-4

Training and Facilities: Some training has expired and the individuals will be notified. There were no concerns regarding the facilities to accommodate the safety and containment requirements of the proposed experiments.

Vote: Approve at BSL2

For: 12 | Against: 0 | Conflict of Interest: 0 | Abstained: 0

Investigator: Marissa Scavuzzo

Project Title: Viral-mediated knockouts in Enteric Glial Cells

IBC Protocol: #IBC-2025-554

Project Overview, Risk Assessment and Discussion:

Investigators will use replication deficient lentivirus to deliver Cas9 nucleases, CRISPR gRNAs, and/or the coding region of select genes to glial cells in culture. The amendment updates personnel, funding, and recombinant materials. Work practices, procedures, and facilities are consistent with BSL2 standards and appropriate for the planned research.

NIH Guidelines: III-D-1, III-D-3, III-D-4

Training and Facilities: Some training has expired and the individuals will be notified. There were no concerns regarding the facilities to accommodate the safety and containment requirements of the proposed experiments.



Vote: Approve at BSL2 with completion of NIH Guidelines training.

For: 12 | Against: 0 | Conflict of Interest: 0 | Abstained: 0

Notes to Committee:

Administrative Amendments

IBC #	PI	Title	Amendment
IBC-2020-370	Wald	Genetic Modifications of NK cells	Personnel
IBC-20080905	Tesar	Reprogramming of cells with virally expressed genes	Personnel

Notices of Closed Protocols/Terminations

IBC #	PI	Title
IBC-200-1203	Skowronski	Roles of Host Cellular Factors in HIV and SIV Replication
IBC-20110901	Zhang	Roles of DNA damage response genes in breast tumor development and therapy

Other Business:

A draft guidance document was provided to the committee for researchers conducting research with genetically modified *Drosophila*. The committee accepted the document, which will be provided to researchers preparing a new IBC submission and posted as a resource on the IBC website.

Next Meeting: July 9, 2026

Meeting Adjourned: 4:10 PM.