



Institutional Biosafety Committee

1155 Union Circle #310979 Denton, Texas 76203

Phone: 940-369-7260

Meeting Minutes (September 2025)	
Date/Time/Location	September 10, 2025; 12:30 PM; Virtual ‘Teams’ Meeting
Type of meeting	Regular Session – Virtual Meeting
	Present
Voting Members:	Mauricio Antunes (Science)
	Sarah Deemer (Kinesiology)
	Calvin Henard (Science)
	Robert Killam (Community)
	Veena Naik (BSO/IBC Vice-Chair)
Guests	Autumn Pinckard (ex officio, RIC)
	Jordan Murray (RMS, Biosafety Specialist)

AGENDA ITEMS

I. Call to order by Dr. Veena Naik (Vice Chair/BSO) at 12:31 pm

II. Welcome:

The Vice Chair welcomed all attendees and shared a brief update on the recent appointment of the new IBC Chair.

III. Quorum Sensing

The quorum for the Committee was met.

IV. Reminder

Conflict of Interest was announced.

V. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

The Committee reviewed the minutes of the previous month's meeting (a virtual Microsoft Teams meeting held on August 13, 2025).

The Vice-Chair sought a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting. A member made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Another member seconded the motion, and the committee voted unanimously to approve August 13, 2025, meeting minutes as written.

VI. Annual Renewal and Amendment Submissions (July-Aug 2025) – Reviewed and approved by the Chair or the Vice-Chair/Biosafety Officer or Subcommittee, between IBC meeting dates, no full committee decision was needed.

- Dr. Kent Chapman** (Biological Sciences) #2024-06-10, “*Greenhouse-based Production of Fungal-Derived Medicines*” closed the project as the materials and research was transferred to Dr. Skellam



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2. **Dr. Kent Chapman, PI, and Dr. Antonella Longo**, Co PI (Biological Sciences) #2024-09-14, “*Structural and functional characterization of transporters and other proteins from plants, bacteria, yeast, and diatoms*” submitted an Annual Renewals with no change
 3. **Dr. Feng Gu** (Biological Sciences) #2023-08-12, “Mouse breeding protocol for Dr. Feng Gu's lab” submitted an Annual Renewal with no change
 4. **Dr. Afosah Daniel** (Chemistry) #2025-06-10, “*Anticoagulant and Antiplatelet Properties of Novel Compounds*” submitted an amendment to update the lab members list.
 5. **Dr. Afosah Daniel** (Chemistry) #2024-09-17, “*Synthetic Glycosaminoglycan Mimetics as Regulators of Megakaryopoiesis and Thrombopoiesis*” submitted an amendment to update the lab members list.
 6. **Dr. Sarah Deemer** (KHPR) #2025-07-14 “*Human Sample Collection*” submitted an amendment to update the lab members list
 7. **Dr. Andrew Gregory** (Biological Sciences) 2025-10-22 “*Testing Wild Turkey for the Presence of Parasitic eDNA in Their Bloodstream.*” - reviewed by two IBC designated reviewers, the IBC Chair and the BSO.

VII. New Protocol Discussion/Decision

1. **Dr. Patrick Horn** (Biological Sciences) “*Investigation of Plant Proteins in Redox-Linked Biochemical Pathways*”
Risk Assessment – The IBC Protocol Registration Form, Lab-Specific Biosafety Manual, Training Records, Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) and General Risk Assessment Form were circulated in advance for pre-review. This is a three-year resubmission before expiration date.
Discussion: The designated IBC Primary Reviewer presented the protocol and outlined key aspects of the project. The study focuses on plant lipid metabolism through the characterization of a diverse set of redox-related genes. The recommendations for this project included - updating the containment level to BSL-2 for safe handling of all research materials, thoroughly completing all applicable sections of the IBC eForm including relevant tables, equipping the laboratory with a spill kit and clearly indicating its location within the form, removing unnecessary materials such as manufacturers’ booklets, and ensuring that all lab personnel have up-to-date and consistent biosafety training certificates on file. BSO will contact the Principal Investigator (PI) to communicate the committee’s recommendations.
Conclusion: The Primary Reviewer made a motion to approve the protocol pending recommended updates. Another member seconded the motion. The committee then voted unanimously to approve the protocol, pending the suggested updates.
2. **Dr. Xiaoqiang Wang** (Biological Sciences/BDI) “*Protein structure and engineering*”
Risk Assessment – The IBC Protocol Registration Form, Lab-Specific Biosafety Manual, Training Records, Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) and General Risk Assessment Form were circulated in advance for pre-review. This is a three-year resubmission before expiration date. The containment level for this project is BSL1.
Discussion: The assigned IBC Primary Reviewer presented the protocol and provided details of the project. The project seeks approval to study engineered protein expression in E. coli. The committee recommended the following revisions: uncheck the ‘glove box’ in list of safety equipment used, use 10% fresh bleach for minimum 30 mins for liquid waste instead of autoclave use, update the spill and decontamination procedure, as 70% ethanol alone is insufficient. BSO



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will contact the Principal Investigator (PI) to communicate the committee's recommendations.

Conclusion: The Primary Reviewer made a motion to approve the protocol pending recommended updates. Another member seconded the motion. The committee then voted unanimously to approve the protocol, pending the suggested updates.

- 3 **Dr. Andrew Gregory** (Biological Sciences) “*Unlocking the Wild Turkey Puzzle: Investigating Diet, Disease, and Population Dynamics through Metabarcoding, Citizen Science, and State Space Demographic Models*”

Risk Assessment – The IBC Protocol Registration Form, Lab-Specific Biosafety Manual, Training Records, Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) and General Risk Assessment Form were circulated in advance for pre-review. The project will follow BSL2 Containment for safe handling wild bird samples.

Discussion: The assigned IBC Primary Reviewer presented the protocol and outlined the details of the proposed project. The study seeks approval for a field-based sample collection involving wild bird feathers and scat, to be collected by local volunteers in Texas and shipped to the lab. The committee recommended the development of training materials—such as instructional videos and/or written guidelines—to support safe sample collection, proper use of PPE, and correct donning and doffing practices. Additionally, for compliance purposes, a consent form should be provided to document each volunteer's participation in the study. BSO will contact the Principal Investigator (PI) to communicate the committee's recommendations.

Conclusion: The Primary Reviewer made a motion to approve the protocol pending recommended updates. Another member seconded the motion. The committee then voted unanimously to approve the protocol, pending the suggested updates.

- 4 **Dr. Pudur Jagadeeswaran** (Biological Sciences) “*Genetics of Thrombopoiesis and Regulators of Coagulation Factor Levels*”

Risk Assessment – The IBC Protocol Registration Form, Lab-Specific Biosafety Manual, Training Records, Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) and General Risk Assessment Form were circulated in advance for pre-review. The project will follow BSL2 containment for handling transgenic zebrafish. This is a three-year resubmission before expiration date.

Discussion: The committee discussed the protocol in detail. The project seeks approval to use animal model to identify novel genes that play a key role in hemostasis and thrombosis. The protocol needed minor updates and was recommended for approval with those minor changes. BSO will contact the Principal Investigator (PI) to communicate the committee's recommendations.

Conclusion: A committee member made a motion to approve the protocol as written. Another member seconded the motion. The committee then voted unanimously to approve the protocol, pending the minor updates.

- 5 **Dr. Taeyul Choi** (Mechanical Engineering), “*Thermal Properties of Human Cells.*”

Risk Assessment – The IBC Protocol Registration Form, Lab-Specific Biosafety Manual, Training Records, Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) and General Risk Assessment Form were circulated in advance for pre-review. The project will follow BSL2 Containment for handling human cells lines. This is a three-year resubmission before expiration date.



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Discussion: The committee discussed the protocol in detail. The protocol requests approval to evaluate the microthermal sensor (MTS) for measuring temperature changes during laser irradiation of human cancer cells in vitro. The committee recommended revisions to include specific information regarding the cell lines to be used in this study. BSO will contact the Principal Investigator (PI) to communicate the committee's recommendations.

Conclusion: A committee member made a motion to approve the protocol as written. Another member seconded the motion. The committee then voted unanimously to approve the protocol, pending the suggested updates.

VIII. Unfinished Business/Updated

None

IX. New Business

New IBC Chair – Dr. Pudur Jagadeeswaran

X. Next Meeting

Next IBC meeting – Tentative Date: **(Will be updated based on a new poll)**

XI. Adjournment

Dr. Veena Naik (Vice-Chair/BSO) at 1:27 pm