



## Institutional Biosafety Committee

1155 Union Circle #310979 Denton, Texas 76203

Phone: 940-369-7260

Meeting Minutes (July 2025)	
Date/Time/Location	July 9 2025; 12:30 PM; Virtual 'Teams' Meeting
Type of meeting	Regular Session – Virtual Meeting
	Present
Voting Members:	Mauricio Antunes (Science)
	Calvin Henard (Science)
	Robert Killam (Community)
	Brian McFarlin (Education) – (IBC Chair)
	Veena N (BSO/IBC Vice-Chair)
	Huaxiao (Adam) Yang (Engineering)
Guests	Chris Erickson ( <i>ex officio</i> , RMS)
	Jordan Murray (RMS, Biosafety Specialist,)

### AGENDA ITEMS

- I. **Call to order** by Dr. Brian McFarlin at 12:32 pm
- II. **Welcome:**  
IBC Chair welcomed all those in attendance.
- III. **Quorum Sensing**  
The quorum for the Committee met.
- IV. **Reminder**  
Conflict of Interest announcement.
- V. **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**  
The Committee reviewed the minutes of the previous month's meeting (a virtual Microsoft Teams meeting held on June 11 , 2025).  
*The IBC 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 June 11, 2025, meeting minutes as written.*
- VI. **Annual Renewal and Amendment Submissions (June-July 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.



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1. **Dr. Elinor Lichtenberg** (Biological Sciences) #2023-07-10, “*Bee foraging and cognition*” submitted amendment to update the lab members list.
  2. **Dr. Feng Gu** (Biological Sciences) #2023-08-12, “*Mouse breeding protocol for Dr. Feng Gu's lab*” submitted amendment to updated research material list (added a new transgenic mouse line to his breeding protocol)
  3. **Dr. Andrew Gregory** (Biological Sciences) #2025-01-02, “*Evaluation of Super-stocking on Genetics and Recruitment of Wild Turkeys in Texas*” submitted amendment to update his lab members list
  4. **Dr. Elinor Lichtenberg** (Biological Sciences) #2023-07-10, “*Bee foraging and cognition*” Annual Renewal

### VII. New Protocol Discussion/Decision

1. **Dr. Jyoti Shah** (Biological Sciences) – “*CRISPR/Cas9-based gene editing to generate mutant lines for studying plant response to stress*”  
**Risk Assessment** – The IBC Protocol Registration Form, Lab-Specific Biosafety Manual, Training Records, Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) and General Risk Assessment Form were circulated for pre-review. Containment Level - BSL2 & BSL-2P  
**Discussion:** The assigned IBC Primary Reviewer presented the protocol and provided details of the project. The project seeks approval for the use of genetic modification on plants and understand the mechanisms by which plants tolerate and respond to different stress conditions. The committee asked for further clarification from the PI on the use of *Camelina sativa*, missing training certificate and description on how the mutant plants will be assessed for stress tolerance post exposure to stress.  
**Conclusion:** The IBC Primary Reviewer made a motion to approve the protocol pending the suggested updates. *Another member seconded the motion.* The BSO will reach out to the PI with the committee’s recommendation and updated documents submitted by the PI will be sent back to the Primary Reviewer and IBC Chair before final approval. The committee voted unanimously to approve, pending the suggested updates.
2. **Dr. Sarah Deemer** (Kinesiology, Health Promotion & Recreation) – “*Human Sample Collection*”.  
**Risk Assessment** – The IBC Protocol Registration Form, Lab-Specific Biosafety Manual, Training Records, Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) and General Risk Assessment Form were circulated for pre-review. BSL-2 Containment for handling human derived samples.  
**Discussion:** The assigned IBC Primary Reviewer presented the protocol and provided details of the project. The project seeks approval to collect and analyses human derived samples (human blood, saliva, urine and tissues). The recommendation was to clarify if Dr. Vingren was involved in training students or sample collection, if yes, then the PI should add him as a lab member in the form and supporting documents.  
**Conclusion:** The IBC Primary Reviewer made a motion to approve the protocol pending the suggested updates. *Another member seconded the motion.* The BSO will reach out to the PI with the committee’s recommendation and updated documents submitted by the PI will be sent back to the Primary Reviewer and IBC Chair before final approval. The committee voted unanimously to approve, pending the suggested updates.



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**3 Dr. Vanesa Macias** (Biological Sciences) – “*Genetic Manipulation of Mosquito to innovate Transgenesis Tools for Gene Function Studies*”

**Risk Assessment** – The IBC Protocol Registration Form, Lab-Specific Biosafety Manual, Training Records, Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) and General Risk Assessment Form were circulated for pre-review. BSL2 Containment

**Discussion:** The assigned IBC Primary Reviewer presented the protocol and provided details of the project. The project seeks approval for the use of genetically modified mosquitoes. The lab will follow BSL-2 level containment for the safe handling of the research materials. The recommendations by the committee were to clarify the use of human blood in this project and update the form/supporting documents accordingly.

**Conclusion:** The IBC Primary Reviewer made a motion to approve the protocol pending the suggested updates. *Another member seconded the motion.* The BSO will reach out to the PI with the committee’s recommendation and updated documents submitted by the PI will be sent back to the Primary Reviewer and IBC Chair before final approval. The committee voted unanimously to approve, pending the suggested updates.

### VIII. Unfinished Business/Updated

Reminder that as per the new memorandum from NIH all meeting minutes from June 2025 and future IBC meeting minutes will be posted on the IBC website.

### IX. New Business

Discussion on the recent USDA notice to UNT. USDA will not accept competitive applications for grants and cooperative agreements submitted for due dates after June 20, 2025, for dangerous gain-of-function research, as defined in [Section 8 of E.O. 14292](#). Further clarification will be requested from Ms. Autumn Pinckard and UNT Legal Counsel.

### X. Next Meeting

Next IBC meeting – Tentative Date: The next IBC meeting is set for **August 13, 2025, at 12:30 pm via Microsoft Teams**

### XI. Adjournment

Dr. Brian McFarlin (Chair) at 1:38 pm