



Institutional Biosafety Committee

1155 Union Circle #310979 Denton, Texas 76203

Phone: 940-369-7260

Meeting Minutes (June 2025)	
Date/Time/Location	June 11 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)
	Brian McFarlin (Education) – IBC Chair
	Huaxiao (Adam) Yang (Engineering)
Guests	Autumn Pinckard (ex officio, RIC)
	Chris Erickson (ex officio, 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 May 14 , 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 May 14, 2025, meeting minutes as written.



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VI. **Annual Renewal and Amendment Submissions (May - June 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.

1. **Dr. Rohan Balakrishnan**, (Biological Sciences) #2024-11-23, "*Protein homeostasis in starving microbes*" - Amendment to update his research material list and his lab members list.
2. **Dr. Andrew Gregory** (Biological Sciences) #2025-01-02, "*Evaluation of Super-stocking on Genetics and Recruitment of Wild Turkeys in Texas*" - Amendment to updated research material list
3. **Dr. Calvin Henard** (Biological Sciences) #2023-01-01, "Genetics, biochemistry, and metabolic engineering of methanotrophic bacteria." Amendment to update his research material and funding list.

VII. **New Protocol Discussion/Decision**

1. **Dr. Elizabeth Skellam (Chemistry)** - Project 1 – "*Understanding and engineering natural product biosynthesis in fungi*".

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.

Discussion: The assigned IBC Primary Reviewer presented the protocol and provided details of the project. The project seeks approval for the genetic manipulation of fungi from risk group 1 and plans to follow BSL2 level containment, as the lab also performs research that requires BSL2 level handling procedures. Recommendations included having a signed risk assessment form on file, updating emergency contacts, and removing any unnecessary literature attached to the protocol. The committee also asked for further clarification on the use of a fungus that produces mycotoxins, which was included in the biosafety manual but not in the IBC form.

Conclusion: The IBC Primary Reviewer made a motion to approve the protocol pending the suggested updates. *Another member seconded the motion.* The Committee voted unanimously to approve pending the suggested updates.

2. **Dr. Elizabeth Skellam (Chemistry)** - Project 2 – "*Greenhouse-based Production of Fungal-Derived Medicines*"

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.

Discussion: The assigned IBC Primary Reviewer presented the protocol and provided details of the project. The project seeks approval for genetic manipulation of fungi from risk group 1, which would then be introduced into plants for possible antibody production. The recommendation was to update the Risk Assessment Form to include the signatures of lab members and update all emergency contact information in the Lab-specific Biosafety Manual.

Conclusion: The IBC Primary Reviewer made a motion to approve the protocol pending the suggested updates. *Another member seconded the motion.* The Committee voted unanimously to approve pending the suggested updates.

3. **Dr. Daniel Afosah (Chemistry)** - Project 1 - "*Anticoagulant and Antiplatelet Properties of Novel Compounds*"



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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.

Discussion: The assigned IBC Primary Reviewer presented the protocol and provided details of the project. The project seeks approval for the use of Human and mouse serum and platelet cells to study new biological compounds that affect platelets' ability to form clots. The lab will follow BSL-2 level containment for the safe handling of human-derived materials.

Conclusion: The IBC Primary Reviewer made a motion to approve the protocol pending the suggested updates. *Another member seconded the motion.* The Committee voted unanimously to approve pending the suggested updates.

4. **Dr. Daniel Afosah (Chemistry)** - Project 2 - “*Zebrafish Models for Studying Glycosaminoglycans (GAG) and GAG mimetics in Megakaryopoiesis and Thrombopoiesis*”

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.

Discussion: The assigned IBC Primary Reviewer presented the protocol and provided details of the project. The protocol seeks approval to investigate the mechanisms underlying platelet production and thrombocytopenia using gene knockouts and antibodies. The project will adhere to BSL2 containment levels for the safe handling of zebrafish and the genetic manipulation procedures. The thorough and well-written protocol was approved as presented.

Conclusion: The IBC Primary Reviewer made a motion to approve the protocol pending the minor updates. *Another member seconded the motion.* The Committee voted unanimously to approve pending the minor update.

5. Updated and resubmitted **Dr. Anastasia Sacharidou** (new faculty, **Biological Sciences**) – “*Endothelial Gene Regulation of Cardiovascular Diseases – 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 for pre-review.

Discussion: The assigned IBC Primary Reviewer presented the protocol and provided details of the project. The protocol seeks approval to investigate genetically modified human and animal cell lines to study insulin resistance and type 2 diabetes (T2D), as well as thrombosis and atherosclerosis. The project will strictly adhere to BSL2 containment levels, ensuring the safe handling of viral vectors, the genetic manipulation techniques employed, and the use of unscreened human-derived materials.

Conclusion: The IBC Primary Reviewer made a motion to approve the protocol as written. *Another member seconded the motion.* The Committee voted unanimously to approve the protocol.

VIII. Unfinished Business/Updated

None



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IX. New Business

As per new memorandum from Dr. Lyric Jorgenson, the NIH Associate Director for Science Policy the current (June 2025) and future IBC meeting minutes will now be linked to the annual IBC meeting dates and deadline table on the IBC website.

X. Next Meeting

Next IBC meeting – Tentative Date: The next IBC meeting is set for **July 9, 2025, at 12:30 pm via Microsoft Teams**

XI. Adjournment

Dr. Brian McFarlin (Chair) at 2.08 pm