LSU Health NEW ORLEANS
Institutional Biosafety Committee

LSU HSC-New Orleans Institutional Biosafety Committee
Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, August 13, 2025
Time: 1:00 PM- 2:23 PM
Location: Zoom

Members present:
1. Zea, *IBC Chair*
2. Catling, *IBC Vice Chair*
3. Didier Mejia, *BSO*
4. Birke, *Animal Containment*
5. Boulares
6. Wang
7. Yue
8. Siggins

Members excused:
1. Curran, *Local Non-affiliated Member*
2. Guidry, *Local Non-affiliated Member*
3. Zabaleta
4. Aiyar

Other Individuals Attendance:
1. Landry, *IBC/IACUC Coordinator*
2. Fuselier, *IBC/IACUC Specialist*
3. Sonnier, *Assistant Director ORS*
4. Porche, *Interim Director ORS, VCAA*

1:03pm **Quorum Present**
The IBC has 11 voting members and 6 are required to conduct business

1:03pm **Call to Order**
The IBC Chair called the meeting to order

1:04pm **Conflicts of Interest**
The IBC Chair reminded all members present to identify any conflicts of interest as each application is reviewed.

1:12pm **Review and approval of previous meeting minutes**
- July 9, 2025

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as written. Motion carried.
These minutes were posted on the ORS IBC webpage.

1:13pm **Review of Prior Business**
None

1:13pm **New Business**
- New Committee Member

The Committee discussed the need to fill a vacant member position. Following the review of candidate nominations, a vote was conducted, and Dr. Robert Siggins was appointed to the committee.

1:14pm **Review of Incidents & Non-compliance**

- **Administrative Closures Due to Inactivity from July 9 to August 13, 2025**

Title	Number	PI Name	Status	Continuing Review Date	Expiration Date
Evaluation of predictive and prognostic markers of breast cancer on serial samples: comparison between African-Americans and Non-African-Americans	5389	Garcia, Agustin	Designated Member Review	June 28, 2025	June 28, 2028

- **Protocols that are suspended, in "Grace Period" and destined for administrative closure:**

Title	Number	PI Name	Status	Continuing Review Date	Expiration Date
Effect of Cartilage oligomeric matrix protein (COMP) on apoptosis in Colon Cancer	7406	Nfonsam, Valentine	Full Committee	August 04, 2025	August 04, 2029
Assessing drug discrimination through changes in ultrasonic vocalization in adult rats	5160	Nichols, Charles	Designated Member Review	July 31, 2025	July 31, 2028

1. **Inspections/Ongoing Oversight**
   - **EH&S**

     There were no updates or issues to report from EH&S at this time.

1:18pm **IBC Registrations & Amendments for Review**

- **Applications and amendments determined by the Chair or IBC Coordinator that do not fall under the NIH Guidelines for FCR**
  - **New Protocols**

IBC #9440	Optical Biopsy of Head and Neck Lesions: A Sheath Based Delivery System with Raman Spectroscopy for Ex-vivo Specimen Staging
PI Name	Dunham, Michael
Project Overview	This study aims to validate and optimize a sheath-based fiberoptic probe designed to improve real-time tumor margin detection during head and neck cancer procedures. The probe utilizes Raman spectrometry and will be tested on excised tissue, with spectrometry results compared to standard pathological assessments to evaluate diagnostic congruency. Additionally, a 3D modeling system will be used to compare tumor localization between surgeon observations, spectrometry data, and pathology findings. The goal is to enhance diagnostic accuracy and support future in vivo clinical trials for earlier and more precise detection in both clinical and surgical settings. All work will be conducted under BSL-2 containment conditions.

NIH Guidelines Section(s)	N/A
Risk Assessment & Discussion	Personnel working in the laboratory will use appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), including gloves, lab coats or disposable gowns, head cover, face shield, and surgical mask.
Training	All institutional trainings required are complete for lab staff listed in the registration: • COI in Research • Laboratory Safety • IBC Compliance • BBP High Risk • BioSafety Training: Shipping Biological Materials
EH&S Assessment	The lab was inspected, and no deficiencies were found.
Occupational Health Representative review (if applicable)	N/A
Biosafety Level Assignment	BSL-2
IACUC status (if applicable)	N/A
IBC Vote	The IBC Chair determined that the application met all necessary requirements and was approved through designated member review (DMR). FCR was not required.
IBC #9370	**Understanding the underlying mechanisms of breast cancer development and progression**
PI Name	Hossain, Fokhrul
Project Overview	This study investigates the role of gene expression patterns and epigenetic changes in the initiation, progression, and treatment resistance of breast cancer, including all major subtypes classified by immunohistochemistry. Particular focus is placed on identifying gene expression at the cellular level and exploring the role of exosomes in intercellular communication and cancer development. The project also examines epigenetic mechanisms—such as DNA methylation, histone modifications, and non-coding RNAs—that contribute to oncogene activation and tumor suppressor gene silencing. Understanding these reversible changes may support the development of targeted epigenetic therapies for breast cancer. All work will be conducted under BSL-2 containment conditions.
NIH Guidelines Section(s)	N/A
Risk Assessment & Discussion	Personnel working in the laboratory will use an appropriate chemical fume hood, BSL-2 Biosafety cabinet and will use personal protective equipment (PPE), including gloves, lab coats or disposable gowns, head cover, face shield, and surgical mask.
Training	All institutional trainings required are complete for lab staff listed in the registration: • COI in Research • Laboratory Safety • IBC Compliance • BBP High Risk
EH&S Assessment	The lab was inspected, and no deficiencies were found.

Occupational Health Representative review (if applicable)	N/A
Biosafety Level Assignment	BSL-2
IACUC status (if applicable)	N/A
IBC Vote	The IBC Chair determined that the application met all necessary requirements and was approved through designated member review (DMR). FCR was not required.
IBC #9343	**Colony of Genetically engineered mice (Knock-out and transgenic) and Transgenic Rats for studies in brain and retinal injuries and diseases**
PI Name	Bazan, Nicolas
Project Overview	This project investigates the cellular mechanisms regulating the delivery and uptake of docosahexaenoic acid (DHA), an essential omega-3 fatty acid critical for retinal and neurological health. DHA and its elongated forms, Very Long-Chain Polyunsaturated Fatty Acids (VLC-PUFAs), are incorporated into membrane phospholipids and, under stress, are converted into bioactive mediators—Neuroprotectin D1 (NPD1) and Elovanoids (ELVs)—that promote cell survival and neuroprotection. The study aims to identify which cells are responsible for DHA transport and incorporation into the retina and brain. Disruption in these processes may contribute to blinding retinal diseases such as Age-related Macular Degeneration (AMD), Retinitis Pigmentosa (RP), and RPE-related dystrophies, which are also linked to Alzheimer's disease pathology. All work will be conducted under BSL-2 containment conditions.
NIH Guidelines Section(s)	III-F-8 Appx C-VII
Risk Assessment & Discussion	Personnel working in the laboratory will use appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), including gloves, lab coats or disposable gowns, head cover, face shield, and surgical mask.
Training	All institutional trainings required are complete for lab staff listed in the registration: • COI in Research • Laboratory Safety • IBC Compliance • BBP High Risk
EH&S Assessment	The lab was inspected, and no deficiencies were found.
Occupational Health Representative review (if applicable)	N/A
Biosafety Level Assignment	BSL-2
IACUC status (if applicable)	Approved

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IBC Vote	The IBC Chair determined that the application met all necessary requirements and was approved through designated member review (DMR). FCR was not required.
IBC #8504	**Immune cells in HIV and the tumor microenvironment**
PI Name	Peruzzi, Francesca
Project Overview	This research includes two related lines of investigation. First, building on previous findings that miR-3189-3p exhibits antitumor activity in glioblastoma and that the transcription factor IKAROS is highly expressed in tumor-associated macrophages (TAMs), the study explores the therapeutic potential of miR-3189-3p and IKAROS inhibition in glioblastoma treatment. Second, the team continues to examine the molecular mechanisms underlying monocyte dysfunction in people living with HIV (PLWH), with a focus on the role of IKAROS in regulating monocyte metabolism and immune responses in both healthy and HIV-infected individuals. All work will be conducted under BSL-1 containment conditions.
NIH Guidelines Section(s)	III-D-1-a III-F-1 III-F-3
Risk Assessment & Discussion	Personnel working in the laboratory will use an appropriate chemical fume hood, BSL-2 Biosafety cabinet and will use personal protective equipment (PPE), including gloves, lab coats or disposable gowns, head cover, face shield, and surgical mask.
Training	All institutional trainings required are complete for lab staff listed in the registration: • COI in Research • Laboratory Safety • IBC Compliance • BBP High Risk
EH&S Assessment	The lab was inspected, and no deficiencies were found.
Occupational Health Representative review (if applicable)	N/A
Biosafety Level Assignment	BSL-1 ABSL-1
IACUC status (if applicable)	N/A
IBC Vote	The IBC Chair determined that the application met all necessary requirements and was approved through designated member review (DMR). FCR was not required.

- **Amendments and Renewals**

Title	Number	PI Name	Submission Type	Expiration Date	Amendment
The Effect of Increasing Dietary Protein on the Gut Microbiota	5006	Byerley, Lauri	Amended	January 29, 2028	Change in Personnel

Synaptic Transmission in Cerebellum, Cellular Mechanisms Underlying the Long-Term Potentiation of GABA Release	2544	Liu, Si-Qiong	Amended	May 25, 2026	Change in Personnel
Prospective observational immunogenicity trial of Gardasil-9 HPV vaccine in adults living with adequately managed HIV	4299	Cameron, Jennifer	Amended	March 17, 2027	Change in Personnel
The role of antiretroviral therapy in susceptibility to oral human papillomavirus (HPV) infection	7010	Cameron, Jennifer	Amended	June 05, 2029	Change in Personnel
Triage tests for people with HPV	7263	Cameron, Jennifer	Amended	June 02, 2029	Change in Personnel
Viral Oncology Research Lab – Human Tissues	2470	Wood, Charles	Amended	December 21, 2026	Change in Personnel
Development of Vapor Inhalation Chambers for Drug Self-Administration in Rodents	4887	Gilpin, Nicholas	Amended	December 08, 2027	Addition of an experimental compound.
Interaction of Shisa proteins with GABA(A) receptor function	6694	Winsauer, Peter	Amended	February 15, 2029	Change in Personnel
MDR2 KO model of Hepatocellular Carcinoma	7748	Skill, Nicholas	Renewed	September 16, 2029	
Genomic and Proteomic Architecture of Atherosclerosis	5644	Love, Gordon	Renewed	September 19, 2028	

Genetic Epidemiology of Lung Cancer	2518	Mandal, Diptasri	Renewed	August 06, 2026	
Mechanisms of Immune Response Evasion and Resistance in Prostate, Breast, Colon and Kidney Tumors.	7527	Zea, Arnold	Renewed	July 29, 2029	
NOLANETS Biorepository	2530	Maluccio, Mary	Renewed	August 06, 2026	
Drug Discovery of Bax Activators for the Treatment of Breast Cancer	7699	Shen, Qiang	Renewed	September 06, 2029	
Energetic State and Metabolic Remodeling in Cardiac Hypertrophy and Failure	4483	Yang, Qinglin	Renewed	August 11, 2027	
Role of novel RNA binding protein LARP6 in alcoholic cardiomyopathy	2509	Gardner, Jason	Renewed	August 26, 2026	
Neuroinflammation in CKD	5653	Mohandas, Rajesh	Renewed	August 30, 2028	
HIPK4 as a Driver of Metastasis and the Development of HIPK4-targeting Therapy	7687	Shen, Qiang	Renewed	August 26, 2029	
Cell culture models of gastrointestinal origin to investigate the effect on peritoneal metastases	7603	Sullivan, Kevin	Renewed	July 22, 2029	
Biomechanical comparison between Bioabsorbable, Magnesium, and Stainless-Steel Screws in the	7456	Clement, Rutledge	Renewed	July 16, 2029	

execution of periacetabular osteotomies.					
Chemical Preparation of hydrogels and nano, micro-, and macro-particles	4608	Hong, Song	Renewed/Amended	August 31, 2027	Change in Personnel
LSUHSC-NO Comprehensive Alcohol-HIV/AIDS Research Center-Animal Core	2522	Simon Peter, Liz	Renewed/Amended	August 26, 2026	Change in Personnel
Detection of human papillomavirus DNA in biopsies from patients with anogenital and head and neck tumor (former 4166)	7657	Hagensee, Michael	Renewed/Amended	August 05, 2029	Change in Personnel
Unified LSUHSC-LCMC-LACATS COVID19 Data Registry and Biorepository	5497	Zea, Arnold	Renewed/Amended	July 13, 2028	Change in Personnel
Alcohol & Metabolic Comorbidities in PLWHA: Evidence Driven Interventions ALIVE-Ex Study	4521	Molina, Patricia	Renewed/Amended	August 22, 2027	Change in Personnel
Targeting Melanocortin-4 Receptors To Reduce Pain In U.S. Veterans	2526	Gilpin, Nicholas	Renewed/Amended	September 24, 2026	Change in Personnel
Louisiana Cancer Research Consortium: Biospecimen Core Laboratory	2512	Zea, Arnold	Renewed/Amended	August 6, 2026	Change in Personnel

- **Applications reviewed and Suspended (in Grace Period) by the Chair after modifications requested by FCR. Continuing IBC oversight is required with annual reviews.**
  N/A
- **Full Committee Review of applications subject to *NIH Guidelines and our Policies*. Continuing IBC oversight required.**

	IBC #9433	Vaccination Strategies for Generating Anti-HIV Antibodies
1:19PM	**PI Name**	Kozlowski, Pamela
	Project Overview	Our studies involve measuring antibody levels and function in serum and mucosal fluids of monkeys. The goal of these studies is to determine whether potential new vaccines for HIV have successfully generated antibody responses in rhesus macaques, and if so, what protective functions could these antibodies mediate. Specimens collected at Primate Centers in the United States are frozen and shipped to us for antibody evaluations. All work will be conducted in accordance with BSL-2+ containment procedures.
	NIH Guidelines Section(s)	III-F-3
	Risk Assessment & Discussion	Personnel working in the laboratory will use appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), including gloves, lab coats or disposable gowns, head covers, face shield, and surgical masks. All work involving biohazardous materials will be conducted within a certified Class II biosafety cabinet (BSL-2 rated) to ensure proper containment and minimize exposure risk.
	Training	All institutional trainings required are complete for lab staff listed in the registration: • COI in Research • Laboratory Safety • IBC Compliance • BBP High Risk
	EH&S Assessment	The lab was inspected, and no deficiencies were found.
	Occupational Health Representative review (if applicable)	N/A
	Biosafety Level Assignment	BSL-2
	IACUC status (if applicable)	N/A
	IBC Vote	The Primary Reviewer made a motion to assign the determination of Modifications Required to Secure Approval (MRSA). • Votes: 7/8 for MRSA, 1/8 for Defer for Information • COI: None reported Following a duly called vote of the committee, Dr. Kozlowski's protocol was conditionally approved, pending submission and approval of the requested revisions by the Primary Reviewer.
	IBC #9397	**CRISPR interference of essential gene function in Chlamydia trachomatis**
1:45PM	**PI Name**	Shen, Li
	Project Overview	The study aims to advance understanding of how Chlamydia trachomatis infects human cells and causes disease. Researchers will improve genetic tools using dCas12-based CRISPR interference (CRISPRi) in Chlamydia and

		apply these tools to investigate mechanisms of gene regulation during the organism's developmental cycle.
	NIH Guidelines Section(s)	III-D-1-a III-D-2-a III-D-2-b III-F-4
	Risk Assessment & Discussion	Personnel working in the laboratory will use appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), including gloves, lab coats or disposable gowns, and eye goggles. All work involving biohazardous materials will be conducted within a certified Class II biosafety cabinet (BSL-2 rated) to ensure proper containment and minimize exposure risk.
	Training	All institutional trainings required are complete for lab staff listed in the registration: • COI in Research • Laboratory Safety • IBC Compliance • BBP High Risk
	EH&S Assessment	The lab was inspected, and no deficiencies were found.
	Occupational Health Representative review (if applicable)	N/A
	Biosafety Level Assignment	BSL-2
	IACUC status (if applicable)	N/A
	IBC Vote	The Primary Reviewer made a motion to assign the determination of Modifications Required to Secure Approval (MRSA). • Votes: 8/8 for MRSA • COI: None reported Following a duly called vote of the committee, Dr. Shen's protocol was conditionally approved, pending submission and approval of the requested revisions by the Primary Reviewer.
	IBC #9376	**Brain Circuitry in Health and Aging: From Anatomy to Function**
1:53PM	**PI Name**	Manjila, Steffy
	Project Overview	Oxytocin is a hormone that helps with childbirth and breastfeeding, but it also affects social behavior, stress, metabolism, and overall brain function. This study will explore how oxytocin-producing brain cells and their connections change with age and how they control milk production during lactation. Using advanced imaging and genetic tools, researchers will map these cells, track their activity, and test how altering oxytocin signals affects brain circuits. Understanding these changes could lead to better support for healthy aging, maternal health, and conditions that involve oxytocin-related brain circuits.
	NIH Guidelines Section(s)	III-D-4 III-F-8

	Risk Assessment & Discussion	Personnel will utilize appropriate PPE, including gloves, lab coats or disposable gowns, and surgical masks. Work will be conducted in both a chemical fume hood and a certified BSL-1 biosafety cabinet, as appropriate. All biological waste will be collected in designated containers treated with bleach, and laboratory surfaces and equipment will be disinfected with 10% bleach after each experiment.
	Training	All institutional trainings required are complete for lab staff listed in the registration: • COI in Research • Laboratory Safety • IBC Compliance • BBP High Risk
	EH&S Assessment	The lab was inspected, and deficiencies have been corrected
	Occupational Health Representative review (if applicable)	N/A
	Biosafety Level Assignment	BSL-2 ABSL-2
	IACUC status (if applicable)	Application approved
	IBC Vote	The Primary Reviewer made a motion to assign the determination of Modifications Required to Secure Approval (MRSA). Votes: 8/8 for MRSA COI: None reported Following a duly called vote of the committee, Dr. Manjila's protocol was conditionally approved, pending submission and approval of the requested revisions by the Primary Reviewer.
	IBC #9461	**Neuronal Activity-Regulated Glutamine Transporter**
2:05PM	**PI Name**	Erickson, Jeffery
	Project Overview	Glutamate is a key chemical messenger in the brain, but too much can damage neurons. This study aims to identify and study a brain cell protein that helps recycle glutamate through glutamine, focusing on how it is regulated by neural activity. Researchers will test how this protein works, find the gene that produces it, and look for compounds that can block its activity. The goal is to see if controlling this process can protect brain cells from damage in conditions like epilepsy, potentially leading to new treatment strategies.
	NIH Guidelines Section(s)	III-E-1
	Risk Assessment & Discussion	Personnel working in the laboratory will use appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), including gloves, lab coats or disposable gowns, and surgical masks. All work involving biohazardous materials will be conducted within a certified Class II biosafety cabinet (BSL-2 rated) to ensure proper containment and minimize exposure risk.
	Training	All institutional trainings required are complete for lab staff listed in the registration:

	• COI in Research • Laboratory Safety • IBC Compliance • BBP High Risk
EH&S Assessment	The lab was inspected, and no deficiencies were found.
Occupational Health Representative review (if applicable)	N/A
Biosafety Level Assignment	BSL-2
IACUC status (if applicable)	N/A
IBC Vote	The Primary Reviewer made a motion to assign the determination of Modifications Required to Secure Approval (MRSA) • Votes: 8/8 • COI: None reported Following a duly called vote of the committee, Dr. Erickson's protocol was conditionally approved, pending submission and approval of the requested revisions by the Primary Reviewer.

2:23pm **Adjournment**

The IBC Chair moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:23PM. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 10, 2025, via Zoom.