

**LSU HSC-New Orleans Institutional Biosafety Committee
Meeting Minutes**

Date: Wednesday, August 12, 2026
Time: 1:02 PM – 4:02PM
Location: Zoom

Members present:

1. Zea, IBC Chair
2. Catling
3. Aiyar
4. Siggins
5. Caro, Animal Containment
6. Didier Mejia, BSO (left at 2:52PM)
7. Wang
8. Zabaleta
9. Baker
10. Curran, Local Non-affiliated Member
11. Guidry, Local Non-affiliated Member

Members excused:

1. Foster
2. Yue

Other Individuals Attendance:

1. Fuselier, Research Compliance Analyst II, IACUC/IBC
2. Burkett, Affiliated EH&S
3. Pourciau, Affiliated EH&S
4. Constans, Director ORS

1:01 PM **Quorum Present**
The IBC has 13 voting members, and 7 are required to conduct business

1:02 PM **Call to Order**
The IBC Chair called the meeting to order

1:03PM **Conflicts of Interest**
The IBC Chair reminded all members present to identify any conflicts of interest as each application is reviewed.

1:03PM **Review and approval of previous meeting minutes**

- June 10, 2026

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

1:07PM **Review of Prior Business**

- The committee welcomed Dr. Foster as the newest IBC member and recognized the start of his term.
- Committee education was provided on the current biosafety topics and IBC review processes to support consistent application of committee policies and regulatory requirements.

1:09PM

New Business

- The IBC was made aware of the IBC member SharePoint site and were given the hyperlink. Non-affiliates (Mason and Guidry) made the IBC office aware that they were not able to access the website. IT will need to look into this.
- Dr. Zea reminded all Committee members of the DMR process starting with the entire Committee having access to the protocol as a secondary reviewer, then assignment to a primary reviewer by Dr. Zea, followed by having the primary reviewer submit their review.
- The Committee was asked if any changes need to be made to the DMR process.
- Dr. Aiyar mentioned that others on the Committee mentioned that the workload of the IBC a lot, though he does not personally feel this way and the workload is appropriate.
- Dr. Zabaleta mentioned his involvement on the Tulane IBC committee and states they have 15 members.
- Dr. Aiyar explained that other EH&S personnel share workload of the BSO for IBC protocol reviews.
- Dr. Baker shared the possibility of having a more robust pre-reviewer position to be hired as a full time position.
- Dr. Aiyar asked for Dr. Constans' opinion, however, Dr. Catling called to have potential ad hoc meeting dedicated to this discussion to address workload and to continue the meeting.

• **Administrative Closures Due to Inactivity from June 10, 2026 to August 12, 2026**

None.

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

Title	Number	PI Name	Review Type	Continuing Review Date	Expiration Date
Docosanoids modulate homeostasis and cell survival after ischemic stroke	4471	Bazan, Nicolas	Renewed/Amended	July 01, 2026	July 01, 2027
Effects of StellaLife Oral Care Recovery Kit on Palatal Wound Healing After Free Gingival Graft	5494	Joshi, Vinayak	Renewed/Amended	July 13, 2026	July 13, 2028
Biomechanical comparison between Bioabsorbable, Magnesium, and Stainless-Steel Screws in the execution of periacetabular osteotomies.	7456	Clement, Rutledge	Renewed	July 16, 2026	July 16, 2029
Assessing drug discrimination through changes in ultrasonic vocalization in adult rats	5160	Nichols, Charles	Renewed/Amended	July 31, 2026	July 31, 2028
Peritumoral Neuroprotection induced by Docosaheptaenoic Acid administered in an Experimental in vivo murine model of Glioblastoma Multiforme	9400	Bazan, Nicolas	Initial	August 11, 2026	August 11, 2030

1: 26PM Inspections/Ongoing Oversight

- **EH&S**

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

1:26PM 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 #11026	Neuroinflammation in CKD (Copy)
PI Name	Mohandas, Rajesh
Project Overview	Kidney disease can cause inflammation that affects the brain, heart, and blood vessels. We believe that inflammatory brain immune cells (microglia), increased brain inflammation, and damage to the blood-brain barrier contribute to abnormal nerve activity that can lead to cardiovascular problems. To study this, we will induce kidney disease in mice and measure heart and brain nerve activity. We will examine how microglia respond to kidney disease, including inflammation, iron buildup, oxidative stress, and changes in cell function. We will also study whether kidney disease weakens the blood-brain barrier and alters blood flow in the brain using both laboratory-grown cells and live mice. Using specialized mouse models and medications, we will temporarily remove microglia or reduce excess iron to determine whether these treatments improve brain, heart, and blood vessel function. We will also perform memory and learning tests to determine how kidney disease affects brain function. These studies may improve our understanding of how kidney disease damages the brain and cardiovascular system and could identify new treatments to improve the health and quality of life of people with kidney disease.
NIH Guidelines Section(s)	III-D-4-a III-F-8
Risk Assessment & Discussion	Personnel working in the laboratory will use an appropriate BSL-2 Biosafety cabinet and will use personal protective equipment (PPE), including gloves, eye goggles, and lab coats or disposable gowns.
Training	All institutional trainings required are complete for lab staff listed in the registration: • COI in Research • Laboratory Safety • IBC Compliance • BBP High Risk • 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 ABSL-1

IRB and IACUC status (if applicable)	Applications reviewed and approved.
IBC Vote	The IBC determined that the application met all necessary requirements and was approved through designated member review (DMR). FCR was not required.

IBC #10689	Targeting ADAM17 for Hypertension Associated Vascular Dementia
PI Name	Lazartigues, Eric
Project Overview	Cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death worldwide, and hypertension is a major risk factor for heart disease, stroke, and cognitive decline. Although hypertension is common, the mechanisms by which it damages the brain are not fully understood. Our research has shown that ACE2 helps regulate blood pressure, while ADAM17 reduces ACE2 activity and may promote brain inflammation during hypertension. This study will use cell culture and mouse models to investigate whether inhibiting ADAM17 in neurons and microglia can reduce hypertension-related brain injury and improve cardiovascular health. The findings may identify new therapeutic strategies for hypertension and cardiovascular disease.
NIH Guidelines Section(s)	III-D-4-b III-F-5
Risk Assessment & Discussion	Personnel working in the laboratory will use an appropriate BSL-2 Biosafety cabinet and will use personal protective equipment (PPE), including gloves, eye goggles, and lab coats or disposable gowns.
Training	All institutional trainings required are complete for lab staff listed in the registration: • COI in Research • Laboratory Safety • IBC Compliance • BBP High Risk • 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 ABSL-1
IRB and IACUC status (if applicable)	Applications reviewed and approved.
IBC Vote	The IBC determined that the application met all necessary requirements and was approved through designated member review (DMR). FCR was not required.

IBC #11027	Evaluating Alcohol Biomarkers in Biorepository Specimens from Patients with Colorectal Cancer
PI Name	Siggins, Robert

Project Overview	The primary objective of this study is to identify alcohol and inflammatory biomarkers expressed in biorepository specimens from patients with CRC, as well as immune alterations seen in those patients. Biorepository plasma and serum samples will be tested for biomarkers of recent and long-term alcohol consumption and paired peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs) will be analyzed for indicators of immune dysregulation that have previously been associated with alcohol use in persons with HIV (PWH). Basic demographics, including but not limited to, age, sex, race, history of tobacco use, tumor stage and histology, treatment status (naïve, post resection, etc.), and personal health history will be obtained for each patient via a query of the Louisiana Tumor Registry.
NIH Guidelines Section(s)	N/A
Risk Assessment & Discussion	Personnel working in the laboratory will use an appropriate BSL-2 Biosafety cabinet and will use personal protective equipment (PPE), including gloves, eye goggles, and lab coats or disposable gowns.
Training	All institutional trainings required are complete for lab staff listed in the registration: • COI in Research • Laboratory Safety • IBC Compliance • BBP High Risk • 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
IRB and IACUC status (if applicable)	Applications reviewed and approved.
IBC Vote	The IBC determined that the application met all necessary requirements and was approved through designated member review (DMR). FCR was not required.

IBC #10926	A Novel Role of Protein S in Blood Coagulation
PI Name	Majumder, Rinku
Project Overview	This study aims to better understand how a protein called Protein S helps blood clots shrink and become more stable after they form. Researchers will investigate where Protein S comes from, whether it is required for this process, which cell receptor it interacts with, and how it sends signals inside platelets to control their behavior. By answering these questions, the study will provide a clearer picture of how Protein S contributes to normal blood clotting and the stabilization of blood clots. These findings may uncover an important role for Protein S that has not been fully recognized before and could help improve our understanding of bleeding and clotting disorders.

NIH Guidelines Section(s)	N/A
Risk Assessment & Discussion	Personnel working in the laboratory will use an appropriate BSL-2 Biosafety cabinet and will use personal protective equipment (PPE), including gloves, eye goggles, surgical masks, and lab coats or disposable gowns.
Training	All institutional trainings required are complete for lab staff listed in the registration: • COI in Research • Laboratory Safety • IBC Compliance • BBP High Risk • 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
IRB and IACUC status (if applicable)	IRB application revisions in progress.
IBC Vote	The IBC determined that the application met all necessary requirements and was approved through designated member review (DMR). FCR was not required.

IBC #11049	A Novel Role of Protein S in Blood Coagulation
PI Name	Gardner, Jason
Project Overview	Our studies are focused on the cellular and molecular mechanisms of alcohol-associated heart dysfunction called cardiomyopathy. One particular protein of interest is Traf3ip2, which is involved in inflammatory cell signaling. We found elevated Traf3ip2 in the hearts of mice that chronically drink alcohol. We will further study the role of Traf3ip2 in the heart's response to alcohol drinking by using two genetically modified mice: 1) mice lacking Traf3ip2; and 2) mice lacking Traf3ip2 in fibroblasts. Fibroblasts are a specific cell type responsible for creating the structural proteins that support cells within an organ. These fibroblast cells have been shown to be activated by alcohol. Thus, we will target Traf3ip2 protein in the fibroblasts to determine if alcohol-related heart damage can be prevented or reduced.
NIH Guidelines Section(s)	III-F-8 Appx C-VII
Risk Assessment & Discussion	Personnel working in the laboratory will use an appropriate BSL-2 Biosafety cabinet and will use personal protective equipment (PPE), including gloves, eye goggles, surgical masks, and lab coats or disposable gowns.
Training	All institutional trainings required are complete for lab staff listed in the registration: • COI in Research • Laboratory Safety • IBC Compliance

	• BBP High Risk • Shipping Biological Materials
EH&S Assessment	Tamoxifen usage was properly given BSL-2/ABSL-2 containment.
Occupational Health Representative review (if applicable)	N/A
Biosafety Level Assignment	BSL-2 ABSL-2
IRB and IACUC status (if applicable)	IACUC application approved.
IBC Vote	The IBC determined that the application met all necessary requirements and was approved through designated member review (DMR). FCR was not required.

IBC #11254	Nitrogen Analysis of Fecal Samples
PI Name	Byerley, Lauri
Project Overview	This project will prepare fecal samples for nitrogen analysis. We want to measure the nitrogen content of the fecal matter to estimate the protein content. Protein is unique from other dietary substances in that it contains nitrogen. The samples were collected from healthy, physically active people with varying amounts of protein in their diet. We want to measure the nitrogen content of the fecal matter to estimate the protein content. Protein is unique from other dietary substances in that it contains nitrogen. The samples were collected from healthy, physically active people with varying amounts of protein in their diet.
NIH Guidelines Section(s)	N/A
Risk Assessment & Discussion	Personnel working in the laboratory will use an appropriate BSL-2 Biosafety cabinet and will use personal protective equipment (PPE), including gloves, eye goggles, surgical masks, and lab coats or disposable gowns.
Training	All institutional trainings required are complete for lab staff listed in the registration: • COI in Research • Laboratory Safety • IBC Compliance • BBP High Risk • 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

IRB and IACUC status (if applicable)	N/A
IBC Vote	The IBC determined that the application met all necessary requirements and was approved through designated member review (DMR). FCR was not required.

1:27PM **Amendments and Renewals (June 10, 2026 to August 12, 2026)**

Title	Number	PI Name	Submission Type	Expiration Date	IBC Amendment - C01 Description
The effects of chronic alcohol use and aging on cardiovascular function	8486	Paloczi, Janos	Amended	Apr 17, 2030	Change in personnel (other than PI).
Serotonin-Microglia Interaction in the Adult Mouse Brain	10413	Klempin, Friederike	Amended	Mar 06, 2031	Addition of experimental material
Role of alpha2 adrenergic receptor antagonism in treating misuse of fentanyl adulterated with xylazine	9419	Pahng, Amanda	Amended	Aug 18, 2030	Change in personnel (other than PI).
Neuroprotective Effect of Docosanoids in Experimental Traumatic Brain Injury	5612	Bazan, Nicolas	Amended	Aug 14, 2028	Change in personnel (other than PI).
Interaction of Shisa proteins with GABA(A) receptor function	6694	Winsauer, Peter	Amended	Feb 15, 2029	Addition of experimental material
Evaluation and Development of 5HT2A receptor agonists as anti-inflammatory therapeutics	4924	Foster, Timothy	Amended	Apr 04, 2028	Change in personnel (other than PI).
Behavioral studies after stroke and traumatic brain injury	4445	Bazan, Nicolas	Amended	Apr 08, 2027	Change in personnel (other than PI).
Alcohol and rmTBI effects on the blood-brain barrier and dementia	7477	Vita, Sydney	Amended	Jun 19, 2029	

					Change in personnel (other than PI).
ADHD and the influence of adolescent alcohol consumption on cognition and behavior	7627	Salling, Michael	Amended	Oct 14, 2029	Addition of experimental material
Regulatory markers in Glioma, Glioblastoma, and Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML): Implications for Tumorigenesis and Clinical Outcomes	10772	Kim, Sun Young	Amended	Jun 16, 2031	Addition of experimental material
Preventing alcohol seeking with a nonmuscle myosin II inhibitor under clinical development	9045	Gilpin, Nicholas	Amended	Jun 11, 2030	Change in personnel (other than PI).
Insulin-Like Growth Factor-1 and Atherosclerosis	6983	Lazartigues, Eric	Amended	Jun 20, 2030	Change in personnel (other than PI).
RPE Messengers, Transcription and Photoreceptor	2523	Bazan, Nicolas	Amended	Aug 26, 2026	Updated IACUC protocol
Colony of Genetically engineered mice (Knock-out and transgenic) and Transgenic Rats for studies in brain and retinal injuries and diseases	9343	Bazan, Nicolas	Amended	Jul 15, 2030	Updated IACUC protocol
Photoreceptor Degeneration and Neuroprotection	5695	Bazan, Nicolas	Amended	Oct 19, 2028	New procedures and cell lines added, update IACUC and IRB protocols
Signaling for Cell Survival	5213	Bazan, Nicolas	Amended	Jul 14, 2028	Addition of cell lines
Dual antiviral drugs to treat infectious diseases	7221	Monticone, Giulia	Designated Member Review	May 02, 2029	Change in PI Addition of experimental material

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HER3-PHF8 signaling axis in triple-negative breast cancer progression	4528	Liu, Bolin	Renew & Amend	Aug 10, 2027	Update IACUC information
Understanding the underlying mechanisms of breast cancer development and progression	9370	Hossain, Fokhrul	Renewed	Jul 25, 2030	
Targeting Triple-Negative Breast cancer	7427	Hossain, Fokhrul	Renewed	Jul 22, 2030	
Role of host immune response and factors affecting resistance/susceptibility in the immunopathogenesis of Candida vaginitis	7592	Fidel, Paul	Renewed	Jul 27, 2029	
Role of Neuropeptides in Stress-Induced Escalation of Alcohol Drinking	4457	Gilpin, Nicholas	Renewed	Aug 15, 2027	
Novel therapeutic investigations for stroke	5651	Biose, Ifechukwude	Renewed	Aug 31, 2028	
Mechanisms of Immune Response Evasion and Resistance in Prostate, Breast, Colon and Kidney Tumors.	7527	Zea, Arnold	Renewed	Jul 29, 2029	
Chemical Preparation of hydrogels and nano, micro-, and macro-particles	4608	Hong, Song	Renewed	Aug 31, 2027	
Alcohol-Cannabinoid System Interactions in the Context of Pain and AUD	7403	Edwards, Scott	Renewed	Jul 10, 2029	
Precision Medicine Clinical Testing	5661	Crabtree, Judy	Renewed	Sep 13, 2028	
Molecular Drivers of HPV-Mediated Dysplasia Progression 2025	9322	Cameron, Jennifer	Renewed	Aug 20, 2030	

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An acute physician training in the swine model	9336	Lazartigues, Eric	Renewed	Aug 22, 2030	
Molecular Drivers of HPV-Mediated Dysplasia Progression 2025	9322	Cameron, Jennifer	Renewed	Aug 20, 2030	
Brain Circuitry in Health and Aging: From Anatomy to Function	9376	Manjila, Steffy	Renewed	Sep 08, 2028	
Sex differences in metabolism	9716	Wiese, Carrie	Renewed/Amended	Sep 08, 2030	Addition of experimental material
Unified LSUHSC-LCMC-LACATS COVID19 Data Registry and Biorepository	5497	Zea, Arnold	Renewed/Amended	Jul 13, 2028	Change in Personnel
Mouse Colony Maintenance and Breeding Plan	7677	Shen, Qiang	Renewed/Amended	Aug 21, 2029	Updated IACUC and Funding
Lipid Nanoparticles for Gene Editing to Correct Cystic Fibrosis in Mice and Rabbits	9373	Wang, Guoshun	Renewed/Amended	Jul 31, 2030	Change in personnel (other than PI).
HIPK4 as a Driver of Metastasis and the Development of HIPK4-targeting Therapy	7687	Shen, Qiang	Renewed/Amended	Aug 26, 2029	Updated IACUC and Funding
Drug Discovery of Bax Activators for the Treatment of Breast Cancer	7699	Shen, Qiang	Renewed/Amended	Sep 06, 2029	Updated IACUC and Funding
Use of a Novel IL11 Blocking Agent to Modulate Hypertrophic Dermal Scarring	9718	Marrero, Luis	Renewed/Amended	Sep 05, 2030	Change in personnel (other than PI).

- **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.**

1:29 PM

IBC #11253	Louisiana Cancer Research Consortium: Biospecimen Core Laboratory (Copy)
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PI Name	Zea, Arnold (Excused from IBC Meeting 1:29PM)
Project Overview	This research study is aimed to create an ongoing multi-institutional biospecimen repository (tumor bank) for studying various cancer (tumors) found in the people of Southeastern Louisiana. Once tissue is removed from a person for diagnosis or treatment, it is usually thrown away. By donating the tissue to the Biospecimen Core Laboratory (BCL) of the Louisiana Cancer Research Consortium (LCRC), research into a cancer's cause, development, and possible treatment can happen, and new patients can benefit in the future. Patients will be asked to donate normal and suspected cancerous tissues, and/or blood and urine in addition to completing a informed consent form questionnaire, only if the patient chooses to volunteer to the study. For the patients for whom blood only is being removed, the blood will be obtained from a standard blood draw. If this is for a biopsy or surgical procedure, no extra tissue will be removed other than what is required for a patient's diagnosis or treatment. If a patient chooses to donate, the BCL of the LCRC will process and store the collected samples. The specimens will be used for research only and will not be sold. The research done with specimens may help to develop new cancer treatments in the future as well as the development of new products such as tests and drugs. Some research looks at diseases that are passed on in families (called genetic research). Research done with specimens may look for genetic causes and signs of diseases if the patient agrees to permit this type of research.
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 covers, 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. Clarification of if ongoing collection is being performed or just bio-banked, location of work locations and transportation of samples with dry ice were reviewed. Preparation of packaging samples for personal transport must mimic packaging samples for commercial transport of biohazardous materials. EH&S may need to amend the CATS training and policies to reflect this discussion.
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 laboratory 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: 10/10 MRSA

	• COI: None reported Following a duly called vote of the committee, Dr. Zea's protocol was conditionally approved, pending submission and approval of the revisions requested by the Primary Reviewer.
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1:48PM (Dr. Zea rejoins the meeting)

IBC #10988	Preclinical investigation of RON kinase receptor as a therapeutic target for TNBC and PDAC
PI Name	Ammanamanchi, Sudhakar
Project Overview	Triple negative breast cancer (TNBC) and Pancreatic Ductal Adenocarcinoma (PDAC) have the worst clinical prognosis and high mortality as these diseases lack distinct molecular targets for development of biological therapies. These tumors are treated with radiation or chemotherapy with severe toxicity and eventually tumors develop drug resistance. Consequently, identification of the molecular hallmarks of TNBC and PDAC that are involved in tumor growth, invasion and metastasis will help drive the development of novel targeted biological therapies which will improve patient survival and bypass the toxic chemo and radiation therapies. A cell surface protein, RON tyrosine kinase receptor is rarely/minimally expressed in normal human epithelial cells but highly expressed in human cancer cells including breast and pancreatic cancer cells and was reported to be involved in tumor growth and metastasis. Our studies identified the critical regulatory elements that are involved in RON gene expression in human breast and pancreatic cancer cells and discovered RON kinase receptor is co-expressed with another protein, hypoxia inducible factor-1 alpha (HIF-1α) which regulates the expression of many genes involved in tumor growth, invasion and metastasis of both triple negative breast cancer and pancreatic cancer clinical specimens. We are going to generate RON and HIF-1α expression modulated breast and pancreatic cancer cell lines, along with pharmacological approaches using small molecule inhibitors of RON (LCRF) and HIF-1α (Digoxin) as well as VSV oncolytic virus combination to establish the significance of RON/HIF-1α axis in tumor growth, metastasis using cell culture assays (In Vitro) and animal models (In Vivo).
NIH Guidelines Section(s)	III-D-1-a III-D-3-a
Risk Assessment & Discussion	Clarification of what is being cloned into listed lentiviral vector and transportation of research materials based on definition of "external site" as being different campuses. Splitting the protocol up into separate IBC protocols with VSV work in separate IBC protocol was requested by the Committee.
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	Work being performed in LCRC and subjected to their own environmental and safety entity.
Occupational Health Representative review (if applicable)	N/A

Biosafety Level Assignment	BSL-2 ABSL-2
IACUC status (if applicable)	N/A
IBC Vote	The Primary Reviewer made a motion to assign the determination of Defer for More Information - Votes: 9/10 Defer for More Information, 1/10 MRSA with no dissenting opinion shared when prompted. - COI: None reported Following a duly called vote of the committee, Dr. Ammanamanchi's protocol was conditionally approved, pending submission and approval of the revisions requested by the Primary Reviewer.

2:33 PM

IBC #11284	NAD+ metabolism in response to sirtuin activation within human cells
PI Name	Aiyar, Ashok (Left meeting during his review)
Project Overview	Sirtuins (SIRT) are a family of nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide (NAD+) dependent enzymes that are activated within human cells after exposure to stress. This stress could arise from a variety of stimuli including infection by intracellular bacteria and viruses. Upon activation, SIRT deacetylate histones and other proteins. SIRT activity results in two outcomes: 1) A decrease in intracellular NAD+ level, followed by, 2) Activation of cellular pathways that replenish intracellular NAD+. Our focus is on the three cellular pathways that replenish NAD+. Using the intracellular bacterium, <i>Chlamydia trachomatis</i> as a model intracellular pathogen, we wish to understand the relative contribution of each of these pathways to replenish intracellular NAD+, and to determine whether metabolites from these pathways impinge on the replication of <i>Chlamydia trachomatis</i>. Research outcomes will focus on understanding the metabolic interactions between human host cells and intracellular bacteria that arise as a consequence of sirtuin activation.
NIH Guidelines Section(s)	N/A
Risk Assessment & Discussion	Aerosols generated from sonication and centrifugation require additional PPE for individual conducting culturing of <i>C. trachomatis</i> to include use of respirator with goggles, gloves, in a BSL-2 biosafety cabinet alone. Storing <i>C. trachomatis</i> with vapor phase liquid nitrogen to avoid aerosolization of thawed frozen samples provided.
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 laboratory 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 to Secure an Approval • Votes: 10/10 for MRSA • COI: None reported Following a duly called vote of the committee, Dr. Ammanamanchi's protocol was conditionally approved, pending submission and approval of the revisions requested by the Primary Reviewer.

2:50 PM (Dr. Aiyar returns to meeting)

IBC #11005	Exploring Mitochondrial Defense Against Ethanol-Induced Dicarbonyl Stress in the Heart
PI Name	Yang, Qinglin
Project Overview	Chronic alcohol consumption is a major cause of non-ischemic heart failure, commonly referred to as alcohol associated cardiomyopathy (ACM), characterized by ventricular dilation, fibrosis, and mitochondrial dysfunction. While it is well documented that alcohol consumption alters cardiac metabolism, generating metabolic carbonyl-adducts forming advanced glycation end products (AGEs). These carbonyl modifications disrupt mitochondrial enzymes, impair oxidative phosphorylation, and exacerbate cardiac remodeling. However, the mitochondrial defense mechanism for detoxifying carbonyl adducts remains unexplored. Recent novel evidence suggests that ES1, also known as Glutamine Amidotransferase Domain-Like 3A (GATD3A), is a mitochondrial protein that plays an important role in detoxifying the mitochondrial Carbonyl adduct, thereby reducing mitochondrial stress. However, its physiological role in the heart and its relevance to ethanol-induced injury remain unknown. This project aims to test the hypothesis that ES1 protects the heart from ethanol-induced injury by preventing mitochondrial dicarbonyl stress and maintaining respiratory homeostasis. The outcomes will uncover a previously unrecognized mechanism linking mitochondrial carbonyl detoxification to cardiac structure and function, providing a foundation for future translational studies targeting dicarbonyl/glycative stress in alcohol-related and metabolic heart disease.
NIH Guidelines Section(s)	III-F-8 Appx C-VII III-F-8 Appx C-VIII III-E-3-a III-D-4-b
Risk Assessment & Discussion	AAVs were reviewed and assessed for biosafety risks and determined to be minimal. Use of tamoxifen for gene induction was reviewed and appropriate containment and SOPs for use of tamoxifen were requested and reviewed.
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 laboratory was inspected, and no deficiencies were found.
Occupational Health Representative review (if applicable)	N/A
Biosafety Level Assignment	BSL-2 ABSL-2
IACUC status (if applicable)	N/A
IBC Vote	The Primary Reviewer made a motion to assign the determination of Modifications to Secure an Approval • Votes: 9/9 MRSA • COI: None reported • APPROVED on 8/28/2026

3:08 PM (Dr. Zea presents the Assigned DMR's review)

IBC #10967	Imunon, Inc. 201-24-301; A Randomized Phase III Trial Evaluating the Safety and Efficacy of Intraperitoneal IMNN-001 (IL-12 Plasmid Formulated with PEG-PEI-Cholesterol Lipopolymer) Administered in Combination with Standard Neoadjuvant and Adjuvant Chemotherapy in Newly Diagnosed Patients with Advanced Epithelial Ovarian, Fallopian Tube or Primary Peritoneal Cancer
PI Name	Jernigan, Amelia
Project Overview	This study will evaluate the safety and efficacy of IMNN-001 combined with standard chemotherapy for epithelial ovarian, fallopian tube, and primary peritoneal cancers. Homologous recombination deficiency, including BRCA1/2 mutations and other DNA-repair abnormalities, may further identify tumors with genomic instability and potential therapeutic vulnerabilities.
NIH Guidelines Section(s)	III-C-1
Risk Assessment & Discussion	The patient brochure was reviewed, however, information in the brochure did not cover biosafety related risks. Section 4.3 and 9.1.14 of brochure discuss non-hospital laboratory activities but these activities were not LSUHSC-NO campuses, but clarification was requested. No biosafety concerns were identified as work is conducted in clinical setting with an FDA registered therapeutic, however, clarification of handling patient samples was requested. NIH Guidelines were supplied to researchers to consult with and include with the IBC protocol under supporting documents.
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 laboratory 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 to Secure an Approval • Votes: 9/9 MRSA • COI: None reported Following a duly called vote of the committee, Dr. Jernigan's protocol was conditionally approved, pending submission and approval of the revisions requested by the Primary Reviewer.

3:38PM

IBC #11018	CELLULAR THERAPY IN CANCER AND NON MALIGNANT CONDITIONS
PI Name	Castro, Januario
Project Overview	This project aims to establish the laboratory infrastructure and expertise required to develop this advanced form of immunotherapy. Initially, we will focus on engineering immune cells that recognize CD19 and B-cell maturation antigen (BCMA), two well-established targets for the treatment of B-cell leukemias, lymphomas, and multiple myeloma. Human immune cells obtained from healthy blood donors will be genetically modified, expanded under controlled laboratory conditions, and evaluated for their ability to recognize and eliminate cancer cells in laboratory studies.
NIH Guidelines Section(s)	III-D-1-a III-E III-E-1
Risk Assessment & Discussion	The protocol was deemed too large in scope and the Committee requested the protocol be condensed to laboratory work only which would aid in assessment of biosafety concerns. Dr. Zabaleta agreed to have a discussion with the research group after the resubmission and responses are reviewed.
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 laboratory 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 Defer for More Information • Votes: 7/9 Defer for More Information 2/9 MRSA with no dissenting opinions provided when prompted • COI: None reported Following a duly called vote of the committee, Dr. Castro's protocol was Deferred for Information, pending submission of the requested revisions. The revised protocol will be reviewed and must receive approval by the Full Committee.

4:06PM Adjournment

The IBC Chair moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:06PM. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, September 9, 2025, via Zoom.