

LSU HSC-New Orleans Institutional Biosafety Committee

Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, September 10, 2025

Time: 1:00 PM- 2:23 PM

Location: Zoom

Members present:

1. Zea, *IBC Chair*
2. Aiyar
3. Birke, *Animal Containment*
4. Catling, *IBC Vice Chair*
5. Didier Mejia, *BSO*
6. Guidry
7. Siggins
8. Wang
9. Yue

Members excused:

1. Curran, *Local Non-affiliated Member*
2. Zabaleta

Other Individual: 1. Landry, *IBC/IACUC Coordinator*
Attendance: 2. Fuselier, *IBC/IACUC Specialist*
3. Porche, *Interim Director ORS, VCAA*
4. Pourciau, *Director EH&S*

1:00pm **Quorum Present**

The IBC has 11 voting members and 6 are required to conduct business

1:02pm **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.

1:04pm **Review and approval of previous meeting minutes**

- August 13, 2025

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as written. Motion carried.

These minutes were posted on the ORS IBC webpage.

1:05pm **Review of Prior Business**

- Change in Committee Members:
 - Dr. Robert Siggins was appointed as a new member of the IBC. The Committee expressed its appreciation to Dr. Boulares for his 10 years of dedicated service.

1:13pm **New Business**

- News from the NIH Office of Science Policy
 - The Committee received a memo from the NIH announcing the launch of a new biosafety modernization initiative. This initiative aims to strengthen biosafety policies, practices, and

oversight to address evolving risks associated with rapidly advancing science and technology. NIH will update existing biosafety policy to ensure that research is conducted under “gold standard” biosafety conditions. Committee members were encouraged to review the statement issued by NIH Director Dr. Jay Bhattacharya and additional information available on the NIH OSP website.

- Director of ORS search
 - Dr. Porche informed the Committee that members will be invited to meet and speak with the candidates for the Director of the Office of Research Services (ORS).

1:12pm **Review of Incidents & Non-compliance**

• **Administrative Closures Due to Inactivity from August 13, 2025 to September 10, 2025**

Title	Number	PI Name	Review Type	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

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

Title	Number	PI Name	Status	Continuing Review Date	Expiration Date
Immunology and Respirometry of Burn Wounds and TBI Murine Model	5608	Smith, Allison	Designated Member Review	August 29, 2025	August 29, 2028

1:12pm **Inspections/Ongoing Oversight**

• **EH&S**

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

1:13pm **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 #9716	Sex differences in metabolism
PI Name	Wiese, Carrie
Project Overview	This project investigates how sex chromosomes and gonads contribute to differences in heart and metabolic disease between males and females. Using mouse models, including Apoe-deficient mice that develop cholesterol-driven heart disease, researchers will examine how gonads and sex chromosomes influence disease progression. For metabolic diseases such as obesity, the study will distinguish gonadal effects by removing gonads to reduce hormone levels and will evaluate chromosome-driven effects by targeting specific genes previously identified in fat cells. Mice will then be assessed under high-fat diet and metabolic stress conditions such as cold exposure. These studies aim to clarify sex-specific mechanisms of

Institutional Biosafety Committee

	disease development and inform new treatment strategies tailored to men and women. All work will be conducted under BSL-1/ABSL-1 containment conditions.
NIH Guidelines Section(s)	III-F-8 Appx C-VII III-F-8 Appx C-VIII III-F-1
Risk Assessment & Discussion	Personnel working in the laboratory will use appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), including gloves, lab coats or disposable gowns, head cover, surgical mask, and BSL1 rated biosafety cabinet.
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	Laboratory inspection pending for new researcher.
Occupational Health Representative review (if applicable)	N/A
Biosafety Level Assignment	BSL-1 ABSL-1
IACUC status (if applicable)	Application submitted and under review
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 #9718	Use of a Novel IL11 Blocking Agent to Modulate Hypertrophic Dermal Scarring
PI Name	Marrero, Luis
Project Overview	Keloids are abnormal, painful, and disfiguring scars that extend beyond the original injury site and frequently recur despite current treatments such as surgery or steroid injections. This project will evaluate a new class of compounds, called NMX compounds, which are designed to block the biological signals driving uncontrolled scar formation, particularly under the low-oxygen conditions typical of keloid tissue. Using patient-derived 3D cell culture models that closely replicate human keloids, researchers will test whether these drugs can prevent or reverse scar overgrowth. If successful, this approach could lead to the first targeted, non-invasive therapy for keloids, offering patients more effective options to reduce scarring, pain, and disfigurement while improving overall quality of life. 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, eye goggles, 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
IRB status (if applicable)	Application Submitted and Under Review
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 #9336	An acute physician training in the swine model
PI Name	Lazartigues, Eric
Project Overview	In certain medical conditions, blocking blood flow in a blood vessel can save lives or prevent serious complications. This is done through a procedure called embolization, where special materials are delivered into blood vessels to stop blood flow. Current materials have drawbacks: some harden too quickly and stick to the delivery tube, while others were designed for small brain vessels and don't work as well in larger vessels in the rest of the body. This study will test a new embolic material designed to be easier to use, safer, and more effective for blocking blood flow in a wider range of blood vessels. It can be smoothly delivered through a catheter and blocks the target vessel, while being visible on X-ray for guidance. All work will be conducted under BSL-1/ABSL-1 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-1 ABSL-1

IACUC status (if applicable)	Application Submitted and Under Review
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 #9419	Role of alpha2 adrenergic receptor antagonism in treating misuse of fentanyl adulterated with xylazine
PI Name	Pahng, Amanda
Project Overview	The mixing of fentanyl with xylazine is an increasing health threat in Louisiana. Because fentanyl and xylazine act on different parts of the brain, existing treatments for opioid addiction are often less effective. This study will test whether certain medicines, already approved for other uses, can help reduce the appeal of fentanyl mixed with xylazine. We will focus on drugs that block the brain's alpha-2 adrenergic receptor (atipamezole and mirtazapine) and also test a drug that targets serotonin receptors (sumatriptan). Using animal studies, we will measure whether these medicines decrease drug-seeking behavior. The goal is to quickly identify new treatment options that could improve care for people in Louisiana struggling with fentanyl misuse.
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, 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 deficiencies have been corrected
Occupational Health Representative review (if applicable)	N/A
Biosafety Level Assignment	BSL-1 ABSL-1
IACUC status (if applicable)	Application Submitted and Under Review
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
Brain reward and stress system interactions in	4487	Avegno, Elizabeth	Amended	June 20, 2027	Change in Personnel

Institutional Biosafety Committee

alcohol dependence					
Chemoprevention of Breast Cancer by Targeting Glucose Metabolism with HJC0152	7655	Shen, Qiang	Amended	October 11, 2029	Change in Personnel
Alcohol-induced injury to Heart	5414	Paloczi, Janos	Amended	June 06, 2028	Change in Personnel
Development of protective vaccine and antibody as Immunotherapies for Disseminated Candidiasis and MDR infections	5011	Xin, Hong	Amended	January 31, 2028	Change in Research Activities
Sex Specific Effects of Adolescent Alcohol Exposure on BNST Plasticity	4027	Wills, Tiffany	Amended	January 20, 2026	Change in Personnel
Viral Oncology Research Lab – In Vitro Techniques	2473	West, John	Amended	December 06, 2027	Change in Personnel Update funding sources
Bromelain Enzymatic Debridement for Muscle and Bone Injury and Infection	8015	Rivera, Jessica	Amended	May 12, 2030	Change in Personnel
Mouse Colony Maintenance and Breeding Plan	7677	Shen, Qiang	Amended	August 21, 2029	Change in Personnel
The Use of Peptide Amphiphile Nanofibers via ReCell Spray Device for Porcine MRSA-Infected Burn Wound Healing Model	6357	Smith, Alison	Amended	November 20, 2028	Change in Personnel Change in research activities
Preclinical investigation of a	5154	Moaven, Omeed	Amended	June 21, 2028	Change in Personnel New cell lines added

Institutional Biosafety Committee

novel oncolytic virus in the treatment of pancreatic cancer					
Chronic Alcohol-Induced Tissue Injury	7789	Souza, Flavia	Close Request	Sep 27, 2029	Project completed as planned
Rodent Model of HIV GP120 Neuropathology	2531	Edwards, Scott	Renewed	August 26, 2026	
Serotonin receptor mediated intraocular pressure assessments	7578	Nichols, Charles	Renewed	September 03, 2029	
Precision Medicine Clinical Testing	5661	Crabtree, Judy	Renewed	September 13, 2028	
Investigation of the anti-inflammatory effects of serotonin 5-HT2A receptor activation	7671	Nichols, Charles	Renewed	August 28, 2029	
Targeting Glucose Metabolism with HJC0152 for Treating Metastatic Breast Cancer	7695	Shen, Qiang	Renewed	October 01, 2029	
Role of oxidative stress in alcohol-induced bone resorption	5000	Ronis, Martin	Renewed	September 28, 2026	
The cellular and molecular basis of synovial joint disease and repair	7776	Marrero, Luis	Renewed	September 27, 2029	
Halting repeat expansion in hMLH3/YG8sR mice using human-specific	7782	Grabczyk, Edward	Renewed	September 26, 2029	

Institutional Biosafety Committee

oligonucleotides-breeding protocol					
Novel therapeutic investigations for stroke	5651	Biose, Ifechukwude	Renewed	August 31, 2028	
miRNA targeting of hypertension and metabolic pathways	7604	Lazartigues, Eric	Renewed/Amended	September 26, 2029	Change in Personnel
RPE Messengers, Transcription and Photoreceptor	2523	Bazan, Nicolas	Renewed/Amended	August 26, 2026	Change in Personnel
Assessing drug discrimination through changes in ultrasonic vocalization in adult rats	5160	Nichols, Charles	Renewed/Amended	July 31, 2028	Change in Personnel
Generation and characterization of CAR-expressed immune cells	4497	Miele, Lucio	Renewed/Amended	August 25, 2027	N/A
Small Molecule Induced Skipping of MLH3 Exon Seven to Slow Progression of DNA Repeat Expansion Disorders	5671	Grabczyk, Edward	Renewed/Amended	September 06, 2028	Change in Personnel
Photoreceptor Degeneration and Neuroprotection	5695	Bazan, Nicolas	Renewed/Amended	October 19, 2028	Change in Personnel
Interaction of Biopsychosocial Stress, Alcohol Misuse, and Post-Acute Neurobehavioral Sequelae of COVID-19	4557	Ferguson, Tekeda	Renewed/Amended	August 15, 2027	Change in Personnel
Stereotactic injection of 6HODA and Preformed alpha-synuclein fibrils for Parkinson's model	7462	Bazan, Nicolas	Renewed/Amended	September 06, 2029	Change in Personnel

Institutional Biosafety Committee

- 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.

1:15PM

IBC #9872	Genetic approaches for the treatment of Usher syndrome
PI Name	Lentz, Jennifer
Project Overview	This project aims to develop therapies for Usher syndrome Type 1C, a genetic disorder causing deafness, imbalance, and progressive vision loss. A mouse model carrying the human 216A mutation found in Louisiana Acadian patients is being used to study disease progression and test potential treatments to prevent or reverse sensory impairments.
NIH Guidelines Section(s)	III-D-4a III-F-1
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 ABSL-2
IACUC status (if applicable)	Application approved
IBC Vote	The Primary Reviewer made a motion to assign the determination of Deferred for Information. • Votes: 9/9 for Defer for Information • COI: None reported Following a duly called vote of the committee, Dr. Lentz's protocol was deferred for information. Approval is contingent upon submission and Full Committee approval of the requested revisions.
IBC #9397	Indirect targeting Notch in triple-negative breast cancer
PI Name	Miele, Lucio

1:31PM

Project Overview	This renewal project focuses on triple-negative breast cancer (TNBC), an aggressive subtype associated with poor outcomes and obesity-related risk factors. The study will investigate r-AAV-based therapeutic strategies designed to block Notch and TGF- β signaling, pathways critical to cancer stem cell survival and tumor progression. The approach involves delivery of soluble receptor decoys and will be tested in combination with chemotherapy and immunotherapy to evaluate potential improvements in TNBC treatment.
NIH Guidelines Section(s)	III-D-1-a
Risk Assessment & Discussion	Personnel working in the laboratory will use appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), including gloves, surgical mask, 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 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: 7/8 MRSA, 1/8 Approve • COI: None reported Following a duly called vote of the committee, Dr. Miele's protocol was conditionally approved, pending submission and approval of the requested revisions by the Primary Reviewer. <i>*Aiyar left the meeting, quorum remained with 8 committee members.</i>

1:41pm **Adjournment**

The IBC Chair moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:41PM. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 8, 2025, via Zoom.