LSU Health NEW ORLEANS
Institutional Biosafety Committee

LSU HSC-New Orleans Institutional Biosafety Committee
Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, April 8, 2026
Time: 1:04PM-1:52PM
Location: Zoom

Members present:
1. Zea, *IBC Chair*
2. Catling, *IBC Vice Chair*
3. Didier Mejia, *BSO*
4. Aiyar
5. Baker
6. Curran, *Local Non-affiliated Member*
7. Siggins
8. Wang
9. Zabaleta

Members excused:
1. Yue
2. Caro, *Animal Containment*
3. Guidry, *Local Non-affiliated Member*

Other Individuals Attendance:
1. Landry, *Research Compliance Analyst II, IBC/IACUC*
2. Fuselier, *Research Compliance Analyst II, IACUC/IBC*
3. Burkett, *Affiliated EH&S*
4. Constans, *Director ORS*

12:58pm **Quorum Present**
The IBC has 12 voting members and 7 are required to conduct business

1:04pm **Call to Order**
The IBC Chair called the meeting to order

1:05pm **Conflicts of Interest**
The IBC Chair reminded all members present to identify any conflicts of interest as each application is reviewed.

1:06pm **Review and approval of previous meeting minutes**
- March 11, 2026
- March 18, 2026 (Ad Hoc)

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

1:08pm **Review of Prior Business**
- The committee previously discussed the need to include a member with expertise in virology. Committee members are asked to submit names of potential candidates for consideration.

Submitted candidates will be reviewed and presented to the committee for discussion and vote at a future meeting.

1:12pm **New Business**

- OOF schedules
  - The committee discussed out-of-office schedules and coverage planning for upcoming vacations involving multiple members.
- ORS Monthly Newsletter
  - A reminder was provided that the ORS Monthly Newsletter is distributed on the second Tuesday of each month and may be used for announcements and educational resources.
- NIH Biosafety Modernization Initiative Resources
  - Documents and resources related to the NIH Biosafety Modernization Initiative were also shared with the committee for review.
- Vote to Extend Committee Member Term
  - The committee voted unanimously to recommend extending Dr. Aiyar's committee term for an additional three years. The Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs (VCAA) concurred with the recommendation, and Dr. Aiyar's term was extended through April 13, 2029.

1:19pm **Review of Incidents & Non-compliance**

- **Administrative Closures Due to Inactivity from March 11, 2026 to April 8, 2026**

Title	Number	PI Name	Review Type	Continuing Review Date	Expiration Date
Role of DNA-PK in vascular inflammation**	5482	Boulares, Abdel	Designated Member Review	September 28, 2025	September 28, 2028
Breeding of mice for research on vascular disease and cancer**	5489	Boulares, Abdel	Designated Member Review	September 24, 2025	September 24, 2028

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

Title	Number	PI Name	Review Type	Continuing Review Date	Expiration Date
The effects of psychedelics on rats with mild cognitive impairment	4890	Nichols, Charles	Designated Member Review	February 09, 2026	February 09, 2028
Peptide-based PARP-1 inhibitors and replication deficient-oncolytic viruses as potential therapies against cancer	5517	Boulares, Abdel	Full Committee	February 18, 2026	February 18, 2030
Nontuberculous Mycobacterium Clinical Database & Biospecimen Bank	5017	MacRae, Shelby	Designated Member Review	February 22, 2026	February 22, 2028
EFFECT OF CPR ON PERFUSION IN A PORCINE MODEL OF SEVERE HEMORRHAGIC SHOCK	5674	Greiffenstein, Patrick	Designated Member Review	February 22, 2026	February 22, 2029

Breast Microenvironment Signaling during Cancer Initiation	5188	Ochoa, Augusto	Designated Member Review	February 25, 2026	February 25, 2027
New Orleans Alcohol Use in HIV (NOAH) Study	4302	Welsh, David	Designated Member Review	March 31, 2026	March 31, 2027
Microbiota-associated Systemic Sclerosis – Interstitial Lung Disease Severity	8385	Krishnan, Amita	Designated Member Review	April 01, 2026	April 01, 2030

1:21pm **Inspections/Ongoing Oversight**

- **EH&S**

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

1:21pm **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 #10400	**Human immune responses to the sexually transmitted pathogens Chlamydia trachomatis (CT) and Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)**
PI Name	Quayle, Alison
Project Overview	This research aims to better understand how two common sexually transmitted infections—*Chlamydia trachomatis* and HIV—persist in the body and evade the immune system. The study focuses primarily on *Chlamydia* and examines how the body's immune response can either help control or allow these infections to continue. Researchers will analyze human clinical samples, such as cells and tissues, to study immune responses in real-world infections, and will also use laboratory models to examine how these pathogens interact with human cells. The goal is to identify factors that contribute to infection persistence and inform future prevention and treatment strategies
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, 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 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 #10285	**Characterization of Inflammatory Markers of Serum Samples in Trauma and Burn patients**
PI Name	Smith, Alison
Project Overview	Severe traumatic injuries trigger a systemic response in the body that can be studied via signaling molecules found in the blood. Our goal is to describe the presence and concentration of these molecules across the trauma patient population. This information can provide insight on how the body reacts to traumatic injuries on a molecular level and inform provider decisions when executing patient care.
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, 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 • 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 determined that the application met all necessary requirements and was approved through designated member review (DMR). FCR was not required.

- **Amendments and Renewals (March 11 to April 8, 2026)**

Title	Number	PI Name	Submission Type	Expiration Date	Amendment Description
Brain Circuitry in Health and Aging: From Anatomy to Function	9376	Manjila, Steffy	Amended	September 08, 2030	Change in personnel
LSU Health Biorepository	8373	Welsh, David	Amended	June 03, 2030	Addition of experimental material Change in personnel

miRNA targeting of hypertension and metabolic pathways	7604	Lazartigues, Eric	Amended	September 26, 2029	Change in personnel
RPE Messengers, Transcription and Photoreceptor	2523	Bazan, Nicolas	Amended	August 26, 2026	Change in personnel
Role of Neuropeptides in Stress-Induced Escalation of Alcohol Drinking	4457	Gilpin, Nicholas	Amended	August 15, 2027	Change in personnel
Antidepressant effects of psychedelics in rodents	6379	Nichols, Charles	Amended	November 27, 2028	Addition of new experimental methods/techniques Addition of experimental material
Cloning, expression, and biohemical testing of kinesin motors	10302	Downs, Micquel	Amended	February 18, 2031	Change in study location
Alcohol and rmTBI effects on the blood-brain barrier and dementia	7477	Vita, Sydney	Amended	June 19, 2029	Change in personnel
Energetic State and Metabolic Remodeling in Cardiac Hypertrophy and Failure	4483	Yang, Qinglin	Amended	August 11, 2027	Change in personnel
Alcohol and traumatic brain injury: neuronal and behavioral consequences	5023	Molina, Patricia	Amended	February 17, 2028	Addition of new experimental methods/techniques
Targeting the Renin System for the Treatment of Pain and Opioid Use Disorder	8032	Edwards, Scott	Amended	January 28, 2030	Change in Personnel
Gene and Stem Cell Therapy for Cystic Fibrosis	10158	Wang, Guoshun	Amended	February 12, 2031	Change in Personnel
Role of alpha2 adrenergic receptor antagonism in treating misuse of fentanyl adulterated with xylazine	9419	Pahng, Amanda	Amended	August 18, 2030	Change in Personnel
Signal transduction in pathogenesis of fungi	2494	Wang, Ping	Amendment	November 14, 2026	Addition of experimental material

Chronic Inflammation, iNOS Production of NO, and Intestinal Obstruction in CF	8487	Wang, Guoshun	Renewed	April 14, 2030	
Mechanisms of Prohealing Lipid Autocrines/paracrines of Macrophages and Nerves in Diabetic Wound Re-innervation	7167	Hong, Song	Renewed	April 27, 2029	
Gut dysbiosis in HFpEF	7252	Biose, Ifechukwude	Renewed	April 22, 2029	
In vitro toxicity analysis of somatostatin receptor targeting chemotherapy	7026	Skill, Nicholas	Renewed	March 11, 2029	
MicroRNAs as Biomarkers of Mitochondrial Function and Functional Recovery in Critical Illness: A Translational Approach	8332	Gill, Luther	Renewed	April 30, 2030	
Molecular Determinants of Parasite fitness and Virulence in Leishmania	4634	Kelly, Ben	Renewed	April 07, 2027	
Fungal-bacterial dynamics driving dysregulated host responses and lethal synergism	7265	Fidel, Paul	Renewed	April 29, 2029	
Streptococcus mutans-Lactobacillus casei Interactions and Caries Formation	7253	Wen, Zezhang	Renewed	April 30, 2029	
Analysis of bio-specimens by mass spectrometry and immunoblotting techniques for identification of lipid mediators	4444	Bazan, Nicolas	Renewed	March 31, 2027	
Molecular Regulation of the Periodontal Ligament	4355	Lallier, Thomas	Renewed/Amended	April 21, 2027	Change in personnel

Broccoli extract supplementation and gastrointestinal health in older adults with active alcohol use and low diet quality.	5063	Zaparte, Aline	Renewed/Amended	April 03, 2028	Change in personnel
Prospective observational immunogenicity trial of Gardasil-9 HPV vaccine in adults living with adequately managed HIV	4299	Cameron, Jennifer	Renewed/Amended	March 17, 2027	Change in personnel
Development of a Rabbit Model for Myeloperoxidase Deficiency	7157	Wang, Guoshun	Renewed/Amended	April 03, 2029	Change in personnel Change in experimental design
Rodent Pathogen Health Surveillance	8431	Caro, Adam	Renewed/Amended	March 31, 2030	Change in personnel (PI)
Spinal Cord Injury Neuroprotection and Functional Recovery	4794	Bazan, Nicolas	Renewed/Amended	April 12, 2028	Change in personnel
Characterization of Paracrine Factors of Circulating Endothelial Progenitor Cells in Burn Patients	4304	Smith, Alison	Renewed/Amended	April 21, 2027	Change in personnel
The genus Rothia in oral health and disease	7256	Wen, Zezhang	Renewed/Amended	April 19, 2029	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.**

1:23pm

IBC #10465	R61 IBC Humanized nectin mouse model for oHSV therapy
PI Name	Kaur, Balveen
Project Overview	This project studies a type of cancer treatment called oncolytic viruses, which are designed to selectively infect and destroy cancer cells while leaving normal cells unharmed. These therapies are already approved in some countries for certain cancers, and this research aims to improve their effectiveness. The study will evaluate new versions of these viruses and test them alone or in combination with existing approved drugs to enhance cancer treatment outcomes. Researchers will also investigate how tumors may resist this therapy and identify ways to overcome that resistance. The goal is to support the development of safer and more effective virus-based cancer treatments.

	NIH Guidelines Section(s)	III-D-1-a III-D-2-a III-E-1 III-E-3-a III-F-3 III-F-8 Appx C-VII III-F-8 Appx C-VIII III-F-8
	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.
	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)	Application ready for approval
	IBC Vote	The Primary Reviewer made a motion to assign the determination of Modifications Required to Secure Approval (MRSA) • Votes: 7/9 MRSA 2/9 Approve • COI: None reported Following a duly called vote of the committee, Dr. Kaur's protocol (deferred from March 18th Ad Hoc) was conditionally approved, pending submission and approval of the revisions requested by the Primary Reviewer.
	IBC #10487	**Hypertension-Driven Ovarian cancer Progression**
1:34pm	**PI Name**	Tarhriz, Vahideh
	Project Overview	This research examines how high blood pressure may contribute to the growth of ovarian cancer. Previous studies suggest that hypertension can alter important cellular pathways that normally help regulate cell growth and suppress tumors. The project will investigate how specific proteins and RNA molecules may promote ovarian tumor progression and whether restoring protective cellular signals can help slow cancer growth.

		Using laboratory and animal models, researchers aim to better understand the biological connection between hypertension and ovarian cancer. The long-term goal is to identify new treatment strategies that target shared disease pathways and improve outcomes for patients affected by both conditions.
	NIH Guidelines Section(s)	III-D-4-b III-F-1 III-F-8
	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.
	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-1
	IACUC status (if applicable)	Application submitted and under review
	IBC Vote	The Primary Reviewer made a motion to assign the determination of Modifications Required to Secure Approval (MRSA) • Votes: 9/9 MRSA • COI: None reported Following a duly called vote of the committee, Dr. Tarhriz's protocol was conditionally approved, pending submission and approval of the requested revisions by the Primary Reviewer.
	IBC #2494	**Signal transduction in pathogenesis of fungi**
1:41pm	**PI Name**	Wang, Ping
	Project Overview	This project studies how the fungi *Cryptococcus neoformans* and *Rhizopus delemar* cause serious infections in individuals with weakened immune systems. The research aims to identify biological pathways that could serve as targets for new antifungal therapies. Researchers will use standard genetic and molecular biology techniques to create and study fungal strains with specific genetic changes in order to better understand how these organisms grow and cause disease. The work also uses established laboratory bacterial systems for routine gene cloning and manipulation.

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, 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.
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 any identified deficiencies will be addressed prior to the initiation of research activities.
Occupational Health Representative review (if applicable)	N/A
Biosafety Level Assignment	BSL-2 ABSL-2
IACUC status (if applicable)	Application ready for approval
IBC Vote	The Primary Reviewer made a motion to assign the determination of Modifications Required to Secure Approval (MRSA) • Votes: 8/8 MRSA* • COI: None reported Following a duly called vote of the committee, Dr. Wang's amendment was conditionally approved, pending submission and approval of the requested revisions by the Primary Reviewer. *Dr. Wang left the meeting as his amendment was being reviewed

1:52pm **Adjournment**

The IBC Chair moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:52PM. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, May 13, 2025, via Zoom.