

The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth Houston)
Institutional Biosafety Committee
June 11, 2026
Minutes

Meeting Attendance:

Voting Members

Dr. Catherine Denicourt (Chair)
Dr. Taichi Goto
Dr. Carolyn Grimes
Dr. Nicholas Justice
Dr. Ashish Kapoor
Dr. Yang Liu
Dr. Yahuan Lou
Dr. Duc Nguyen
Dr. Eunsu Park
Dr. Scott Patlovich
Dr. Brett Perkinson
Mr. Jesus Duran Ramirez (SM)
Mr. Petko Ivanov (CM)
Mrs. Marivonne Rodriguez (CM)

Non-Voting Members

Dr. Kristin King
Dr. Mary Robinson
Mr. Colin Harrison
Ms. Rebecca Kairis
Ms. Allison Lino
Ms. Meredith Mills

Guests:

Herminia Perez (EPP)
Ermina Ali (Intern)

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Denicourt at 3:01 PM.

2. Conflicts of Interest

The Chairperson reminded the committee about the conflict of interest procedure. She also reminded the committee members that all protocols that are discussed at the meeting are to be considered confidential and are not to be discussed outside of the meeting with non-IBC members.

3. Review Previous Meeting Minutes (May 14, 2026)

Approved = 11
Opposed = 0
Abstained = 3

4. IBC Administrative Items

Annual Review Forms for Active IBC protocols are required under our IBC policy. These forms are being prepared as fillable PDFs and will be sent to PIs by the end of June.

Recombinant or Synthetic Nucleic Acid Molecules Research Applications Review

During the review the committee assessed the containment levels as well as the facilities, procedures, practices and training and expertise of the personnel involved in recombinant or synthetic nucleic acid molecules research. The committee also reviewed agent

characteristics, types of manipulations planned, sources of the inserted nucleic acid sequences, the nature of the inserted nucleic acid sequences and whether an attempt will be made to obtain expression of a foreign gene, and if so, the protein that will be produced. Furthermore, the PI must determine the applicable section(s) of the *NIH Guidelines*.

5. Clinical Protocol Reviews (HGT)

None

6. Protocol Reviews

IBC-26-042 – Dr. Hana Janova – “Gastrointestinal neuroinflammation causing intestinal dysfunctions in neurodegenerative diseases”

Containment Level: BSL-1; ABSL-1

NIH Section: III-D-4-a, III-E-3-a, III-F-8

Training status: Personnel listed on the protocol are current on safety training

Approved = 14

Opposed = 0

Abstained = 0

The protocol was presented and approved with no additional recommendations.

IBC-26-047 – Dr. Guliz Erdem – “Short-Course Antibiotic Therapy for Streptococcal Pharyngitis in the Emergency Department: A Randomized Controlled Trial”

Containment Level: BSL-2; no animal work associated with this protocol

NIH Section: None

Training status: Personnel listed on the protocol are current on safety training

Approved = 14

Opposed = 0

Abstained = 0

The protocol was presented and approved pending clarification of culture volume (1 mL of culture to be stored).

IBC-26-049 – Dr. Paul Schulz – “Discovering early markers for Alzheimer’s Disease”

This protocol was not reviewed at the meeting. It will be approved as conditionally exempt and on the next meeting’s agenda.

IBC-26-050 – Dr. Anilkumar Pillai – “Complement component, neuroinflammation and depression” AND “Chronic stress, complement immune system and behavior” AND “Assessment of Complement Cascade Components in Patients With major Depressive Disorder” AND “Effects of chronic unpredictable stress on tumor-bearing mice”

Containment Level: BSL-2; ABSL-1

NIH Section: III-D-4-a, III-E-3

Training status: Personnel listed on the protocol are current on safety training

Approved = 14

Opposed = 0

Abstained = 0

The protocol was presented and approved with no additional recommendations.

7. Conditionally Exempt Protocol Reviews

IBC-26-043 – Dr. Syed Jafri – “Tumor Tissue and Laboratory in Lung Cancer” AND “Protocol No: T-12-102: Tumor Tissue Banking in Head And Neck Cancer”

IBC-26-044 – Dr. Gabriel Fries – “Intimate partner violence: an integration of cognitive and biomolecular factors”

IBC-26-045 – Dr. Kari North – “BHRC (former CCHC) Slowing the Epidemic of Obesity and Type 2 Diabetes and their consequences in South Texas Border” AND “Predictive Model of Chronic Kidney Disease in a Hispanic Population” AND “Determination of Traditional and Novel Risk Factor Associations for Peripheral Arterial Disease in Mexican-Americans in South Texas” AND “Genetic Determinants of Lipidomic Variation and Their Role in CVD Risk” AND “Hispanic Latino Lipid Consortium” “Genomic, transcriptomic, and metabolic effects on skeletal health in Mexican Americans” AND “Whole Genome DNA Methylation Markers for Tracking and Predicting Advanced Liver Fibrosis as a Precursor of Liver Cancer in NAFLD.”
IBC-26-048 – Dr. Ricardo Mosquera – “Salivary Cytokine Gene Expression and Electrochemical Detection-Based Nanotechnology in Patients with Various Pulmonary Conditions.”

8. Protocol Updates

a. Significant updates:

IBC-25-056 – Dr. Nicholas De Lay – “Systematic analysis of *Treponema pallidum* gene expression under host infection related conditions”

- **Addition of rDNA:** *Treponema pallidum* subsp. *pallidum* strains modified with a cassette containing kanamycin resistance gene and gfp to inactivate genes important for oxygen tolerance
- **Addition of personnel:** Add Aleksandra Aiurova

Containment Level: BSL-2; no animal work associated with this protocol update

NIH Section: III-D-1-a

Training status: Personnel listed on the protocol are current on safety training requirements

Approved = 14

Opposed = 0

Abstained = 0

The protocol update was presented and approved with the condition to list the specific genes deleted on the protocol summary (completed post-meeting).

IBC-26-028 – Dr. Xiaochao Tan – “Study the roles of ER and Golgi proteins in lung cancer”

- Addition of rDNA: *Treponema pallidum* subsp. *pallidum* strains modified with a cassette containing kanamycin resistance gene and gfp to inactivate genes important for oxygen tolerance
- **Addition of work:** Addition of work related to new rDNA target genes (PLD1, ARL14, TFRC, APP, FAM3C, PLAU, PTX3, INPP1, dTomato-PASS, TGN46, p230, TMEM115) and Cre-mediated recombination of PLD1, K898R, and eGFP in mice using a replication-defective, third generation Lentivirus system administered via intratracheal delivery.
- **Addition of rDNA:** Lentivirus vector with packaging system (Cre-recombinase, PLD1, K898R, eGFP), cDNA plasmids (PLD1, ARL14, TFRC, APP, FAM3C, PLAU, PTX3, INPP1, dTomato-PASS, TGN46, p230, TMEM115)
- **Addition of bioagent:** Human lung tumor tissue (Human lung cancer patient-derived xenograft), Lentivirus strain (Lentivirus-Cre)
- **Addition of location:** MSE R617
- **Addition of personnel:** Xuejun Zhang

Containment Level: BSL-2 enhanced; ABSL-2 for experiment 8

NIH Section: III-D-4-a (new); already approved for III-D-1-a, III-D-2-a and III-F-8

Training status: Personnel listed on the protocol are current on safety training

Approved = 14

Opposed = 0

Abstained = 0

The protocol was presented and approved with no additional recommendations.

b. Administrative updates:

IBC-21-055 – Dr. Vihang Narkar – “Transcriptional regulation in skeletal muscle physiology and patho-physiology” AND “Regulation of angiogenesis by nuclear receptors and co-activators.” AND “Estrogen Related Receptor Gamma Signaling in Diabetic Muscle Angiopathy” AND “Regulation of angiogenesis by endothelial ERR-alpha signaling” AND “New Therapeutic Strategies for Peripheral Artery Disease” AND **“Intervention of endothelial senescence in limb muscle ischemia with exercise mimetics”**

- **Addition of bolded title**
- **Addition of rDNA:** AAV strains (myo-AAV4-ERRalpha, myo-AAV4-ERRgamma, myo-AAV4-GFP)

IBC-21-064 – Dr. Claudio Soto – “Early Diagnostic and Therapy for Alzheimer's

Disease” AND “Protein misfolding cyclic amplification assay (PMCA) for tau” AND “Highly selective detection of tau oligomers in biological fluids for the diagnosis of Alzheimer's Disease” AND “Development of a blood test for Alzheimer's disease diagnostic” AND “Isolation, characterization and pathogenic role of self-propagating conformational amyloid-beta strains” AND “PMCA detection of antibody-treated biological samples” AND “Misfolded Protein Aggregates in HIV Infection” AND “Depression as a risk factor for converting mild cognitive impairment into AD” AND “Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis/Fronto temporal dementia PMCA” AND “Misfolding and aggregation of p53 and its implications in cancer” AND “Role of circulating Abeta seeds and peripheral tissue damage in Alzheimer's disease pathogenesis” AND “Recombinant APOE as treatment in AD mouse models” AND “Detection and characterization of alpha-synuclein aggregates in patients with Alzheimer's disease and related dementia” AND “Characterization of the structure of tau aggregates in postmortem brain of DLB and PD patients”

- **Addition of bioagents:** frozen skin scalp samples from 10 AD and 5 control cases; 10 frozen brain tissue samples, and 10 skin samples from human subjects

IBC-22-006 – Dr. Simon Young – “Use of the bioengineered bacteria to treat periodontitis”

- **Addition of personnel:** Jiaqi Huang

IBC-22-018 – Dr. Laura Goetzl – “CNS-Derived Fetal Extracellular Vesicles for the Non-Invasive Diagnosis of Fetal CNS CMV Infection”

- **Addition of personnel:** Carolina Jorgez

IBC-22-029 – Dr. Fabricio Do Monte – “Neural circuits balancing reward-approaching with threat-avoidance” AND “Probing brain circuit and behavior with protein: protein interaction modulators” AND “Corticothalamic circuits mediating behavioral adaptations to unexpected reward omission” AND **“Investigating the role of prefrontal cortex circuits in risky decision-making”**

- **Addition of bolded title**
- **Addition of rDNA:** AAV1hSyniGluSnFR3-v857-PDGFR; AAV5-CaMKIIa-Cre; AAV9-TH-Cre; AAV5-CAGFLEX-JAWS; AAV5-syn-FLEX-jRCaMP1b; AAV2/DJ8-hSyn-GRAB-DA3m

IBC-22-040 – Dr. Wenbo Li – “Elucidating eRNA Biology in Breast Cancer” AND Beyond Gene Dosage: Understanding Down Syndrome via 4D Genome Organization” AND “Mechanisms underlying Enhancer RNP mediated gene regulation and genome organization” AND “Enhancer RNAs in brain gene regulation and Alzheimer's disease” AND “Novel roles of TAZ/YAP in DNA Damage repair, 3D genome organization and Therapeutic Resistance in Glioblastoma” AND “Elucidating T Cell Ferroptosis in Renal Medullary Carcinoma: 3D Genome Architecture Rewiring and Therapeutic Alleviation”

- **Addition of bioagent:** Mouse embryonic stem cells (F121-9 and E14 cells), Mouse cell lines (mouse liver cell lines Hepa1c1c7 and AML12)

IBC-22-044 – Dr. Gang Zhang – “Modulation of small GTPase RhoA to enhance nerve repair” AND “Modulation of CSF1R Signaling to Treat Inflammatory Neuropathies”

- **Removal of personnel:** Rebecca Berdeaux

- **Update summary of work:** Clarification of the source, characterization, and use of human-derived serum materials in the proposed Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS) validation studies

IBC-22-049 – Dr. Sheng Zhang – “Regulation of HTT-mediated selective autophagy and its perturbation in HD pathogenesis” AND “The roles of Huntingtin Associated Protein 40 in Huntingtin functions and Huntington's disease pathogenesis”

- **Addition of personnel:** Beatriz Rios
- **Removal of personnel:** Yue Yu, Amanda Solbach, Lili Ye

IBC-22-051 – Dr. Simon Young – “Hydrogel encapsulated and responsive micro-cytokine factories to treat oral cancer”

- **Addition of bioagents:** E. coli Nissle 1917 secreting IL-2, IL-12, IL-15, DR18 (IL-18); RPE (ARPE-19) cells secreting IL-2, IL-12, DR18 (IL-18), CTLA4, PD1
- **Addition of personnel:** David Ren
- **Removal of personnel:** Arman Hassan

IBC-22-065 – Dr. Fuqing Wu – “Monitoring of pathogens in wastewater and human specimen for population health”

- **Removal of personnel:** Dhvani Parikh, Xingwen Chen
- **Addition of personnel:** Katelyn Clark, Vivian Duong

IBC-23-013 – Dr. Nami McCarty – “Identification and Characterization of Molecules Important in the Immune System”

- **Removal of personnel:** Trung Vu

IBC-23-015 – Dr. Mary Farach-Carson – “Acquisition and Experimental Use of Head and Neck Tissue for Tissue Engineering and Biomarker Discovery” AND “Salivary Tissues for Relief of Xerostomia” AND “Directing Collective Epithelial Morphology in Space and Time Using a Light-Based Carving Tool” AND “Salivary Avatars for Screening Stimulants and Sialagogues” AND “Cell-Based Therapy in Minipig Model of Radiation-Induced Xerostomia” AND “Development of Surgically Implantable Minor Salivary Gland-Based Constructs for Treatment of Xerostomia” AND “SARS-CoV-2 Latency in Oral and Salivary Tissues” AND “Functional Biointegration of Bioengineered Salivary Tissues in Irradiated Animal Models” AND “Epithelial Organization in Thin Bioprinted Hydrogel”

- **Addition of personnel:** Monica Mayer

IBC-23-018 – Dr. Sunil Krishnan – “Rational translation of gold nanoparticle mediated radiosensitization to the clinic” AND “Enhancing immune mediated head and neck cancer anti-tumor activity using nanoparticles” AND “Enhancing Chemoradiation Efficacy through Unbiased Drug Discovery Approaches” AND “Triggered expression of cellular stress signals followed by guided delivery of cytotoxic payloads - a novel paradigm with broad anti-cancer applicability”

- **Addition of AWC protocol:** AWC-25-0095
- **Addition of mouse strain:** NOD.Cg-Prkdcscid H2-K1b-tm1Bpe H2-Ab1g7-em1Mvw H2-D1b-tm1Bpe Il2rgtm1Wjl/SzJ

IBC-23-071 – Dr. Ashish Kapoor – “Molecular genetics of human diseases and traits” AND “Identifying Cis-Regulatory Variants, Genes, and Regulatory Networks Underlying

QT Interval Variation”

- **Removal of personnel:** Ambreen Asim

IBC-24-073 – Dr. Long Jun Wu – “Studying microglia functions in health and diseases via viral tools and plasmid containing nanoparticles in mice”

- **Removal of personnel:** Rongzhua Hua
- **Addition of personnel:** Sarah Jewanee

IBC-25-020 – Dr. David Rodriguez Buritica – “A Phase 1/2, Dose-Exploration Study to Evaluate the Safety and Efficacy of BEAM-301 in Patients with Glycogen Storage Disease Type IA (GSDIA) Homozygous or Compound Heterozygous for the G6PC1 c.247>T (p.R83C) Variant”

- **Clinical Protocol Update:** submission of Laboratory Manual v3 with changes that include general edits, addition of central lab testing for blood samples (lipids, serology) and urine (urine chemistry), change of total blood volume collected for central lab testing, and corrections to the collection schedule
- **Removal of personnel:** Theresa Dancsak, Candace Hernandez, Sarah Darden, Amanda Baptiste, and Cynthia Sturm
- **Addition of personnel:** Betty Hernandez, Tanya Khan, Savette Harris, and Tunecca Gilbert

IBC-25-029 – Dr. Yi-Ping Li – “Skeletal Muscle Remodeling” AND “Intramuscular Mechanism of Cancer Cachexia”

- **Addition of personnel:** Thi Thu Hao Nguyen

IBC-25-067 – Dr. Oleh Pochynyuk – “Physiology of ClC-K2/b Cl⁻ channel in the collecting duct” AND “Importance of collecting duct ClC-Kb/2 channel for urinary electrolyte excretion” AND “Regulation of K⁺ balance by distal nephron TRPV4 channel” AND “Flow dependent TRPV4-mediated [Ca²⁺]_i signaling in PKD progression” AND “TRPC3-dependent Ca²⁺ Signaling in Collecting Duct Water Reabsorption and Osmosensitivity”

- **Removal of titles:** “Significance of Epac signaling in renal Na⁺ handling and hypertension” and “Role of Cl⁻ transport in the collecting duct in blood pressure control and acid-base balance” and “Sex-dependent regulation of urinary volume by Epac isoforms”
- **Addition of titles:** “Physiology of ClC-K2/b Cl⁻ channel in the collecting duct” AND “Importance of collecting duct ClC-Kb/2 channel for urinary electrolyte excretion” AND “Regulation of K⁺ balance by distal nephron TRPV4 channel” AND “Flow dependent TRPV4-mediated [Ca²⁺]_i signaling in PKD progression” AND “TRPC3-dependent Ca²⁺ Signaling in Collecting Duct Water Reabsorption and Osmosensitivity”
- **Addition of rDNA:** Mammalian expression vectors (pGeneClip, pIRES2-EGFP), Lentiviral vector GIPZ
- **Addition of bioagents:** mDCT15 mouse cell lines, Rat primary kidney cells, Human primary kidney cells, Human kidney tissue
- **Addition of AWC protocols:** AWC-24-0047; AWC-24-0022; AWC-22-0048
- **Addition of animals:** PCK453 rats, TRPV4^{-/-} mice, TRPC3^{-/-} mice
- **Addition of work:** biochemical and fluorescent imaging experiments with human tissue samples

IBC-25-073 – Dr. Kendra Carmon – “Development of a Patient-Derived Xenograft Mouse Model of Solid Tumors” AND “Bispecific drug-conjugates for treating colorectal cancer” AND “Preclinical efficacy of GPR56 antibody-drug conjugates and combination therapies for triple-negative breast cancer” AND “The Role and Therapeutic Targeting of GPR56 in Colorectal Cancer” AND “Therapeutic co-targeting of LGR5 and MET to overcome heterogeneity and therapy resistance in colorectal tumors”

- **Addition of personnel:** Sean Sullivan, Maya Cappellino, Tiffani Blackburn
- **Addition of bioagents:** human cell lines (colon cancer: SW948, SK-CO-1 and pancreatic cancer: BxPC-3, Capan-2, CFPAC-1, AsPC-1, HPAF-II, Panc 08.13, Panc 10.05, SU.86.86, SW1990)

IBC-25-100 – Dr. Alemayehu Abebe – “Organizational dynamics of Ras nanoclusters at single molecule resolution”

- **Removal of personnel:** Jacob Jakube, Abraham Sianoya

9. BSL-3 Update

No updates.

10. Biological Safety Program Activity Report

The Biological Safety Program Activity Report was included in the packet for review. There were two reported injuries in May, both related to the manipulation of pig housing pens at CLAMC.

11. Environmental Protection Program Activity Report

The Environmental Protection Program Safety Program Activity Report was included in the packet for review.

12. Other Items

Soto IBC-25-010 Follow-up: Dr. Soto has agreed to do this work in the MSE R204 suite. EHS will assist with funding for the new microtome. All other conditions of approval apply.

EHS and CLAMC meet with an incoming PI who will work with *Strongyloides* (parasitic roundworm) in gerbils.

EHS and Occupational Health were consulted regarding a concern at MHH involving autopsy personnel when CJD was confirmed post-autopsy. There was no overt exposure event.

UT System is reviewing BSL-2 capacity to support New World Screwworm research.

13. Next Meeting

The meeting is scheduled for July 09, 2026, 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM, virtually via Microsoft TEAMS.

14. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Dr. Denicourt at 3:48 PM.

APPROVED