TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE RESEARCH
INSTITUTIONAL BIOSAFETY COMMITTEE - AMARILLO
MEETING MINUTES

***DATE**: 07/23/2025*
***TIME**: 12:33 PM*
***LOCATION**: Zoom*

The meeting for the Texas A&M Agrilife Research Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) - Amarillo was called to order by the Chair at 12:33 PM. This meeting was open to the public.

MEETING ATTENDANCE

Voting members present – 12
Voting members required for quorum - 9

Voting IBC Members Present

☒ Carlos Gonzalez, IBC Chair
☒ Kurt Zuelke, IBC Vice Chair
☒ Jessica Bourquin, BSO
☒ Lisa Auckland
☐ Noah Cohen
☐ Jason Gill
☒ Tennille Lamon
☐ Kevin Myles
☒ Sanjay Reddy
☒ Penny Riggs
☒ Christina Robertson
☒ Brian Shaw
☒ Joseph Sorg
☒ Misty Churchwell, Community Member
☒ William Willis, Community Member

Office of Biosafety (OBS) Staff Present:

☒ Merissa Bruns
☒ Cat Carey
☒ Athena Cherry
☒ Susan Gater
☒ Melissa Hinga
☒ Lauren Horton
☒ Jeffrey Lane
☒ Jeni Mathews
☒ Ruchira Mitra
☒ David Perez
☒ Grant Severson
☒ Megan Shoff
☒ Beatriz A Velez
☒ Jennifer Wier
☒ Todd Wisner
☒ Wendy Wright

Guests Present:
13 additional guests

I. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. IBC CHAIR

i. None.

B. BIOSAFETY OFFICER

i. The next IBC Meeting has been rescheduled to 08/27/2025.

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. *None*.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. *None*.

IV. REPORTS

A. Institutional Biosafety Program (IBSP):

The IBSP report was presented for committee review. Since the previous meeting for the Texas A&M Agrilife Research IBC - Amarillo on 02/28/2024:

- 8 submissions were received by the Office of Biosafety for review by the IBC and
- 9 submissions were reviewed and processed by Biosafety Program Staff and approved by the IBC Chair on behalf of the IBC, including:
  - 1 termination and
  - 0 extensions.

These submissions could include any of the following: a simple amendment (room change, personnel, etc.), an initial or 3-year renewal application describing non-recombinant or exempt recombinant studies, administrative actions (including terminations and extensions), and annual reviews. Committee members are encouraged to review these submissions (not requiring full committee review) in iRIS.

B. Incident Reports

None.

V. PROTOCOL REVIEWS

A. The committee reviewed the proposed research, including agent characteristics, experimental manipulations, recombinant or synthetic nucleic acid components, and the training and qualifications of the PI and lab personnel. Final approval is contingent upon confirmation by the IBC Chair or the Office of Biosafety, on behalf of the IBC, that all personnel have completed the required training, facilities meet containment standards, and all necessary modifications have been addressed. Any unresolved issues or significant changes will be brought before the full committee for further review.

B. The IBC Chair reminded all members present to identify any conflicts of interest prior to IBC registrations being reviewed.

Protocol #	IBC2022-050
Protocol Type	Amendment
PI Name	Kiran Gadhave
Reviewer Summary	Dr. Gadhave submitted an amendment to add work with Tomato Yellow Leaf Curl Virus (TYLCV) and *Saccharomyces cerevisiae.* The research aims to investigate the role of the V2 protein, a potential viral silencing suppressor, in the transmission of begomoviruses by the whitefly *Bemisia tabaci*.

<table>
<tr><td>Section(s) of NIH Guidelines</td><td>III-F, III-E, III-E-2b2</td></tr>
<tr><td>Characteristics of Agent(s) or Material(s)</td><td>
<table>
<tr><th>#</th><th>Agent</th><th>BSL</th><th>In vivo</th><th>Recombinant</th></tr>
<tr><td>1</td><td>Tomato Yellow Leaf Curl Virus</td><td>BSL-1</td><td>Yes</td><td>Yes</td></tr>
<tr><td>2</td><td>S. cerevisiae</td><td>BSL-1</td><td>No</td><td>Yes</td></tr>
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</td></tr>
<tr><td>Recombinant Modifications</td><td>
<table>
<tr><th>Agent #</th><th>Category/Description</th><th>Source RG</th></tr>
<tr><td>1-2</td><td>Fluorescent proteins</td><td>1</td></tr>
<tr><td>2</td><td>CDNA infectious clone</td><td>1</td></tr>
<tr><td>1-2</td><td>TYLCV△V2</td><td>1</td></tr>
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</td></tr>
<tr><td>Risk Assessment, Mitigations, and Work Practices</td><td>

Wildtype TYLCV infectious clone and V2 loss-of-function mutants will be delivered to whiteflies via ingestion, by mixing the clones in 20% sucrose solution.
Infected white flies will be placed on tomato and Nicotiana benthamiana plants contained inside bug domes within a growth chamber to test the functionality of TYLCV△V2 mutant.

The committee discussed containment features of bug domes. A visual aid was provided for the IBC’s review.

Transmission bioassays will help assess how viral mutations affect both viral accumulation and transmission efficiency by whiteflies.
Yeast two-hybrid and bimolecular fluorescence complementation assays will be conducted to identify whitefly proteins that interact with TYLCV V2 proteins to validate their role in virus transmission.
Further identification of TYLCV V2 interacting proteins will be done using pulldown assays and by mass spectrophotometry.
The USDA APHIS BRS permit for TYLCV, along with the corresponding standard operating procedure (SOP) are attached to the application.
The permit specifically excludes the use of the virus in the greenhouse, which is why all infected plants will remain in the growth chambers.

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<tr><td>Motion</td><td>Motion to approve and seconded</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">12 For 0 Against 0 Abstain 0 Recuse</td></tr>
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VI. MAJOR MOTIONS OR POINTS OF ORDER

None.

VII. MEETING ADJOURMENT

The IBC meeting was adjourned at 12:48 PM.