TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
INSTITUTIONAL BIOSAFETY COMMITTEE - USDA-ARS, COLLEGE STATION
MEETING MINUTES

***DATE**: 07/23/2025*
***TIME**: 12:49 PM*
***LOCATION**: Zoom*

The meeting for the Texas A&M University (TAMU) Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) - USDA-ARS, College Station was called to order by the Chair at 12:49 PM. This meeting was open to the public.

MEETING ATTENDANCE

Voting members present – 14
Voting members required for quorum – 10

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
☒ William Boyd
☒ Mark Burow
☒ Don Plitt
☒ Arthur Davila

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:
10 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. 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.

<table>
<tr><td>Protocol #</td><td>IBC2019-179</td></tr>
<tr><td>Protocol Type</td><td>Amendment</td></tr>
<tr><td>PI Name</td><td>Louis Prom</td></tr>
<tr><td>Reviewer Summary</td><td>Dr. Prom submitted an amendment to include work with non-pathogenic Escherichia coli, Agrobacterium tumefaciens, Tobacco Rattle Virus (TRV) vector, Rhizoctonia solani, Fusarium FOV4, Xanthomonas campestris pv. malvacearum, and transgenic cotton. The goal is to better understand host resistance mechanisms, enhance disease resistance, and ultimately improve the agronomic performance of cotton.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Section(s) of NIH Guidelines</td><td>III-F, III-E, III-E-2a</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>E. coli (non-pathogenic)</td><td>BSL-1</td><td>No</td><td>Yes</td></tr>
<tr><td>2</td><td>E. coli K-12</td><td>BSL-1</td><td>No</td><td>Yes</td></tr>
<tr><td>3</td><td>Agrobacterium tumefaciens</td><td>BSL-1</td><td>Yes</td><td>Yes</td></tr>
<tr><td>4</td><td>TRV</td><td>BSL-1, BSL-1P</td><td>Yes</td><td>Yes</td></tr>
<tr><td>5</td><td>Transgenic cotton</td><td>BSL-1, BSL-1P</td><td>No</td><td>Yes</td></tr>
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<tr><td>Recombinant Modifications</td><td>
<table>
<tr><th>Agent #</th><th>Category/Description</th><th>Source RG</th></tr>
<tr><td>1-4</td><td>Fluorescent markers, expression tags</td><td>1</td></tr>
<tr><td>1-4</td><td>Fungal virulence genes</td><td>1</td></tr>
<tr><td>1-5</td><td>Gossypol genes involved in stress response, terpenoid biosynthesis, etc.</td><td>1</td></tr>
<tr><td>1-4</td><td>Gossypol genes involved in resistance to Fusarium infection</td><td>1</td></tr>
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</td></tr>
<tr><td>Risk Assessment, Mitigations, and Work Practices</td><td>

Genes will be cloned into E. coli K-12 and non-pathogenic E. coli. Genes of interest will be silenced in cotton plants through transformation using Agrobacterium tumefaciens.
The functional role of candidate genes in cotton disease resistance and pathogen virulence will be elucidated using virus-induced gene silencing (VIGS) via TRV-based agroinfiltration assays.
Transgenic cotton plants, along with wild-type controls, will be challenged with Fusarium oxysporum FOV4, Xanthomonas campestris pv. malvacearum, and Rhizoctonia solani to test plants for disease resistance against these common cotton pathogens.
All listed organisms are covered under the PI’s USDA APHIS permit.
Relevant protocols for transgenic work and greenhouse procedures protocols have been submitted with the application.

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<tr><td>Motion</td><td>Motion to approve and seconded</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">13 For 0 Against 1 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 12:57 PM.