

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

DATE: 09/24/2025

TIME: 2:48 PM

LOCATION: Hildebrand Equine Complex/Zoom

The meeting for the Texas A&M AgriLife Research Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) - Weslaco was called to order by the Chair at 2:48 PM. The meeting was open to the public.

MEETING ATTENDANCE

Voting members present: 12

Voting members required for quorum: 8

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
☒ Joseph Sorg
☒ Jeffrey Kleypas, Community Member
☐ Madahy Romero, Community Member

Office of Biosafety (OBS) Staff Present:

☒ Merissa Bruns
☒ Susan Gater
☒ Melissa Hinga
☒ Lauren Horton
☒ Jeffrey Lane
☒ Ruchira Mitra

☒ Grant Severson
☒ Megan Shoff
☒ Beatriz A Velez
☒ Jennifer Wier
☒ Todd Wisner
☒ David Perez

Guests Present:

9 additional guests

I. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. IBC CHAIR

- i.* None.

B. BIOSAFETY OFFICER

- i.* The November and December IBC meetings are rescheduled to 11/19/2025 and 12/10/2025.

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 - Weslaco on 04/23/2025:

- 4 submissions were received by the Office of Biosafety for review by the IBC and
- 3 submissions were reviewed and processed by Biosafety Program Staff and approved by the IBC Chair on behalf of the IBC, including:
 - No terminations or 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 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 #	IBC2018-026
Protocol Type	Amendment
PI Name	Kranthi Mandadi
Reviewer Summary	Dr. Mandadi submitted an amendment to generate recombinant and knock-out (KO) cotton using previously approved inserts in <i>Agrobacterium tumefaciens</i> and <i>A. rhizogenes</i> . The amendment also includes downregulation of native gene expression for lipid content, nutritional quality, and insect resistance, as well as the addition of colorimetric reporter genes. Exempt, non-recombinant work with an endemic strain of <i>Xanthomonas axonopodis</i> pv.citri was also added.

Section(s) of <i>NIH Guidelines</i>	III-E, III-E-2a, and Appendix L				
Characteristics of Agent(s) or Material(s)	#	Agent	BSL	<i>In vivo</i>	Recombinant
	1	Transgenic cotton	BSL-1, BSL-1P	No	Yes
Recombinant Modifications	Agent #	Category/Description			Source RG
	1	Insect resistance			1
	1	Lipid content and nutritional quality			1
	1	Colorimetric reporters			1
Risk Assessment, Mitigations, and Work Practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Plant cells will be transformed with colorimetric reporter genes to confirm successful transformation.Plants will be genetically modified using CRISPR-Cas9 components delivered via <i>A. tumefaciens</i> or <i>A. rhizogenes</i>.Downregulation of the native gene HYDRA-1 is expected to negatively affect the development of insect pests feeding on the plants.Downregulation of native genes BADC and SDP1 is anticipated to enhance oil content and nutritional quality of cotton seed.Modified plants will be generated in controlled, sterile, growth facilities.Plants will be grown according to the IBC approved SOP in securely controlled BSL-1 growth chambers or certified BSL-1P greenhouses.Transportation of plants to a growth chamber or greenhouse is performed using the lab cart and a closed plastic.All transgenic plants and soil will be autoclaved prior to disposal.				
Motion	<i>Motion to approve and seconded</i>				
12 For 0 Against 0 Abstain 0 Recuse					

V. MAJOR MOTIONS OR POINTS OF ORDER

None.

VI. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

The IBC meeting was adjourned at 2:53 PM.