TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
INSTITUTIONAL BIOSAFETY COMMITTEE - DALLAS
MEETING MINUTES

***DATE**: 10/22/2025*
***TIME**: 12:34 PM*
***LOCATION**: Zoom*

The meeting for the Texas A&M University (TAMU) Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) - Dallas was called to order by the Chair at 12:34 PM. This meeting was open to the public.

MEETING ATTENDANCE

Voting members present: 12
Voting members are 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
☒ Tracy Kim, Community Member
☒ Megan Marks, 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
☒ Grant Severson
☒ Megan Shoff
☒ Beatriz A Velez
☒ Jennifer Wier
☒ Todd Wisner
☒ Wendy Wright

Guests Present:
Principal Investigator (PI) Gomez
10 additional guests

I. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. IBC CHAIR

i. None

B. BIOSAFETY OFFICER

i. Biosafety Fair – 10/31/2025 held at the Kleberg Center

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. Updates to the *BSL-1/BSL-2 Biohazardous Waste Disposal Guidelines*, originally approved by the IBC in March 2017, were presented to the committee for review and approval.

Approval of revised *BSL-1/BSL-2 Biohazardous Waste Disposal Guidelines*

Motion to approve pending minor revisions to the arthropod section and footnotes. changes **11** ayes, **0** nays, and **1** abstentions

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 TAMU IBC - Dallas on 02/26/2025:

- 19 submissions were received by the Office of Biosafety for review by the IBC and
- 16 submissions were reviewed and processed by Biosafety Program Staff and approved by the IBC Chair on behalf of the IBC.

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 #	IBC2025-079
Protocol Type	Initial
PI Name	Kimberly Gomez
Reviewer Summary	Dr. Gomez submitted an initial IBC application to investigate the molecular mechanisms underlying pain signaling using human dorsal root ganglion (DRG) tissue and genetically modified mice. The study involves non-viral CRISPR/Cas9 genome editing, primary human neuron cultures, and neurotoxins (tetrodotoxin [TTX] and ω-conotoxin GVIA). Tamoxifen-inducible gene knockout models will be used to study proteins such as Ly6e and Lynx1 as potential therapeutic targets for chronic pain.

<table>
<tr><td>Section(s) of NIH Guidelines</td><td>III-E, III-E-3</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>Human cell lines and tissues</td><td>BSL-2</td><td>No</td><td>Yes</td></tr>
<tr><td>2</td><td>Mus musculus</td><td>ABSL-1</td><td>N/A</td><td>Yes</td></tr>
<tr><td>3</td><td>Tetrodotoxin</td><td>BSL-2</td><td>No</td><td>No</td></tr>
<tr><td>4</td><td>ω-Conotoxin GVIA</td><td>BSL-2</td><td>No</td><td>No</td></tr>
</table>
</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>Voltage-gated ion channels</td><td>1</td></tr>
<tr><td>1-2</td><td>Proteins involved in immune cell function</td><td>1</td></tr>
<tr><td>1-2</td><td>Genome Editing Tools</td><td>1</td></tr>
<tr><td>1-2</td><td>All fluorescent, luminescent, and colorimetric markers</td><td>1</td></tr>
<tr><td>1-2</td><td>Antibiotic markers (Neomycin)</td><td>1</td></tr>
</table>
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<tr><td>Risk Assessment, Mitigations, and Work Practices</td><td>

Human DRG tissue must be handled under BSL-2 conditions with bloodborne pathogen precautions.

All aerosol-generating procedures, such as centrifugation, are performed inside a biosafety cabinet (BSC) or other primary containment device.
Material Transfer Agreement (MTA) is in process and tissue acquisition from cadavers is being reviewed by the Texas A&M Willed Body Program.

CRISPR/Cas9 transfection is performed using a non-viral lipid-based delivery method inside a BSC. All transfected cells treated as BSL-2 biohazardous waste.
Neurotoxins (TTX, ω-Conotoxin) are stored securely with inventory controls in place.

Standard operating procedures (SOPs) provided for electrophysiology procedures, splash protection, and required PPE (double gloves and eye protection) when preparing materials in a chemical fume hood or BSC. and disinfection.

All waste is either decontaminated or handled as chemical hazardous waste.

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<tr><td>Training and Expertise of Research Personnel</td><td>PI has over 12 years of experience in molecular neuroscience and pain biology and biography is included in iRIS submission.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Biosafety Occupational Health</td><td>BOHP Annual Enrollment
Annual Bloodborne Pathogen Training</td></tr>
<tr><td>Motion</td><td>Motion to approve and seconded</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">11 For 0 Against 1 Abstain 0 Recuse</td></tr>
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VI. MAJOR MOTIONS OR POINTS OF ORDER

None

VII. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

The IBC meeting was adjourned at 12:57 PM.