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

***DATE**: 10/22/2025*
***TIME**: 12:57 PM*
***LOCATION**: Zoom*

The meeting for the Texas A&M University (TAMU) Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) - Houston was called to order by the Chair at 12:57 PM. This meeting was open to the public.

MEETING ATTENDANCE

Voting members present: 11
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
☒ Steven Burns, Community Member
☐ Christie Kovar, 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) Chang
8 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 **13** ayes, **0** nays, and **0** 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 - Houston on 05/28/2025:

- 35 submissions were received by the Office of Biosafety for review by the IBC and 35 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 #	IBC2020-160
Protocol Type	Amendment
PI Name	Jiang Chang
Reviewer Summary	Dr. Chang submitted an amendment to add Cre recombinase to facilitate studies on heart disease, cardiac remodeling, and heart failure. The enzyme will be used with previously approved human, animal, yeast cells, and transgenic mice.
Section(s) of *NIH Guidelines*	III-F, III-D-3, III-D-4

<table>
<tr><td>Recombinant Modifications</td><td><table>
<tr><th>Agent #</th><th>Category/Description</th><th>Source RG</th></tr>
<tr><td>All approved</td><td>Genome editing enzymes</td><td>1</td></tr>
</table></td></tr>
<tr><td>Risk Assessment, Mitigations, and Work Practices</td><td>
Cre recombinase is part of a well characterized system for making genetic modifications and will be used in previously approved agents and mouse lines.
All manipulations of the agents will be conducted at BSL-2 in a biosafety cabinet by trained personnel wearing the required PPE.
All biohazardous liquid waste will be treated with 10% bleach v/v for 30 minutes prior to disposal in the sink flushed with copious amounts of water. Solid waste will be collected in a biohazard bag and autoclaved 121°C (250°F) 1 hour, then disposed through a commercial vendor.
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<tr><td>Motion</td><td>Motion to approve and seconded</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">11 For 0 Against 0 Abstain 0 Recuse</td></tr>
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<tr><td>Protocol #</td><td>IBC2020-044</td></tr>
<tr><td>Protocol Type</td><td>Amendment</td></tr>
<tr><td>PI Name</td><td>David Reiner</td></tr>
<tr><td>Reviewer Summary</td><td>Dr. Reiner submitted an amendment to add work expressing heavy chain single-domain antibody fragments (VHH nanobodies) fused with fluorescent proteins in Caenorhabditis elegans and Escherichia coli K-12 strains to characterize proto-oncogenic signaling networks.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Section(s) of NIH Guidelines</td><td>III-D-4, III-F</td></tr>
<tr><td>Recombinant Modifications</td><td><table>
<tr><th>Category/Description</th><th>Source RG</th></tr>
<tr><td>VHH nanobodies</td><td>1</td></tr>
</table></td></tr>
<tr><td>Risk Assessment, Mitigations, and Work Practices</td><td>
Work will be performed in accordance with Appendix G-II of the NIH Guidelines as previously approved for E. coli and C. elegans.

Contaminated lab equipment and supplies will be decontaminated with 10% bleach or autoclaved at 121°C for 1 hour.
Transgenic C. elegans will be autoclaved prior to disposal.

</td></tr>
<tr><td>Motion</td><td>Motion to approve and seconded</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">11 For 0 Against 0 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 1:04PM.