

LSU HSC-New Orleans Institutional Biosafety Committee
Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, January 14, 2026
Time: 1:08PM-2:36PM
Location: Zoom

Members present:

1. Zea, *IBC Chair*
2. Catling, *IBC Vice Chair*
3. Didier Mejia, *BSO*
4. Caro, *Animal Containment*
5. Aiyar
6. Baker
7. Curran, *Local Non-affiliated Member*
8. Siggins
9. Wang
10. Yue
11. Zabaleta

Members excused:

1. Guidry, *Local Non-affiliated Member*

Other Individuals Attendance:

1. Landry, *Research Compliance Analyst II, IBC/IACUC*
2. Fuselier, *Research Compliance Analyst II, IACUC/IBC*
3. Burkett, *Affiliated EH&S*
4. Pourciau, *Affiliated EH&S*

12:59pm **Quorum Present**

The IBC has 11 voting members and 6 are required to conduct business

1:08pm **Call to Order**

The IBC Chair called the meeting to order

1:08pm **Conflicts of Interest**

The IBC Chair reminded all members present to identify any conflicts of interest as each application is reviewed.

1:11pm **Review and approval of previous meeting minutes**

- November 20, 2025
- November 25, 2025 (Ad Hoc)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as written. Motion carried.
These minutes were posted on the ORS IBC webpage.

1:14pm **Review of Prior Business**

- The committee was informed of the appointment of Dr. Joseph Constans as the new Director of the Office of Research Services (ORS). Dr. Constans will officially start January 12th
- The 2026 IBC meeting calendar was announced and is available on the ORS website:
https://www.lsuhscc.edu/administration/academic/ors/ibc/au_meeting_dates.aspx

Institutional Biosafety Committee

- The committee reviewed proposed updates to IBC policies to align with recent NIH guidance regarding meeting minutes, voted to adopt the changes, and noted that the updated policies have been posted on the ORS website:
https://www.lsuhscc.edu/administration/academic/ors/ibc/comp_policies_procedures.aspx
- The committee was also informed that Dr. Birke will be leaving LSU Health Sciences Center in 2026. Dr. Adam Caro will replace Dr. Birke, and the IBC recommended adding Dr. Caro and Dr. Baker as committee members beginning in January.

1:15pm **New Business**

- The committee welcomed Drs. Constans, Caro, and Baker. Updates to the IBC RMS were submitted on January 13, 2026.
- The committee reviewed the 2025 attendance records in accordance with the Attendance Policy
- A Designated Member Review (DMR) policy was proposed to allow DMR for amendments involving significant changes and new protocols, except for those requiring Full Committee Review (FCR). The policy outlines that submission materials are distributed to all IBC members, who are provided two (2) business days to request FCR or submit comments. If FCR is not requested, the IBC Chairperson, or a qualified designee, may approve the amendment or protocol, require modifications to secure approval, or refer the amendment for FCR. Withholding approval is not an allowable outcome under DMR. Following discussion, the committee voted to approve the policy, and it has been posted on the IBC website.
- The committee was also informed of upcoming regional listening sessions regarding NIH efforts to modernize and strengthen biosafety oversight. On January 29, 2026, NIH and the Southern Biosafety Association (SBA) will co-host a virtual listening session, and members were encouraged to attend and participate in the policy development process. Registration details and event information were shared with the committee.

1:29pm **Review of Incidents & Non-compliance**

• **Administrative Closures Due to Inactivity from September 10, 2025 to October 8, 2025**

Title	Number	PI Name	Review Type	Continuing Review Date	Expiration Date
Role of DNA-PK in vascular inflammation **	5482	Boulares, Abdel	Designated Member Review	September 28, 2025	September 28, 2028
Breeding of mice for research on vascular disease and cancer **	5489	Boulares, Abdel	Designated Member Review	September 24, 2025	September 24, 2028

**Protocols will be closed once DOD funds are transferred to Dr. Zabaleta

- **Protocols that are suspended, in “Grace Period” and destined for administrative closure:**
N/A

1:30pm **Inspections/Ongoing Oversight**

- EH&S**

There were no updates or issues to report from EH&S at this time.

1:32pm **IBC Registrations & Amendments for Review**

- Applications and amendments determined by the Chair or IBC Coordinator that do not fall under the NIH Guidelines for FCR**
 - New Protocols**

IBC #10123	Evaluation Of Exercise Program For Cancer Survivors Of Female Reproductive and Breast Cancers
PI Name	Byerley, Lauri
Project Overview	This project involves processing human fecal samples for DNA and metabolite analysis to identify gut microbes and the metabolites they produce during digestion. The Microbiome Core will analyze microbial composition, and the Metabolomics Core will analyze intestinal metabolites. The project has IRB approval and follows the same procedures as previously approved IBC and IRB protocols. Fecal samples will be collected and transferred for processing and storage. Sample processing will occur in a BSL-2 biological safety cabinet, where samples are transferred, aliquoted, frozen in liquid nitrogen, and stored at -80°C until analysis. All materials used during processing will be treated as biohazardous waste and autoclaved prior to disposal.
NIH Guidelines Section(s)	N/A
Risk Assessment & Discussion	Personnel working in the laboratory will use appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), including gloves, lab coats or disposable gowns, face shield or eye goggles, head cover, surgical mask, and BSL2 rated biosafety cabinet.
Training	All institutional trainings required are complete for lab staff listed in the registration: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COI in Research • Laboratory Safety • IBC Compliance • BBP High Risk
EH&S Assessment	The lab was inspected, and no deficiencies were found.
Occupational Health Representative review (if applicable)	N/A
Biosafety Level Assignment	BSL-2
IRB status (if applicable)	Application reviewed and approved
IBC Vote	The IBC Chair determined that the application met all necessary requirements and was approved through designated member review (DMR). FCR was not required.
IBC #10085	Integration of multi-omics data in epidemiological research
PI Name	Wu, Lang

Project Overview	This project includes two complementary studies focused on cancer etiology and risk prediction. The U01 multi-omics study will integrate large pancreatic cancer epidemiologic datasets with advanced statistical methods and functional analyses to improve understanding of pancreatic cancer risk and enhance prediction models across diverse ancestries. The R01 study will similarly investigate prostate cancer etiology and improve risk and aggressiveness prediction models in African and European populations. As part of the U01 study, frozen normal pancreatic tissue samples from individuals without pancreatic cancer or other pancreatic disorders will be transferred from the University of Hawaii and Banner Sun Health Research Institute to LSUHSC. An experienced pathologist will conduct independent pathological review and quality control to confirm the absence of malignancy or dysplasia and to identify appropriate non-malignant tissue regions. Selected normal ductal epithelial tissues will be macrodissected and microdissected with support from the Morphology and Imaging Core for downstream analyses.
NIH Guidelines Section(s)	N/A
Risk Assessment & Discussion	Personnel working in the laboratory will use an appropriate chemical fume hood, BSL-2 Biosafety cabinet and will use personal protective equipment (PPE), including gloves, lab coats or disposable gowns, eye goggles, and surgical mask.
Training	All institutional trainings required are complete for lab staff listed in the registration: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COI in Research • Laboratory Safety • IBC Compliance • BBP High Risk
EH&S Assessment	The lab was inspected, and no deficiencies were found.
Occupational Health Representative review (if applicable)	N/A
Biosafety Level Assignment	BSL-2
IRB status (if applicable)	Applications Submitted (Under Review)
IBC Vote	The IBC Chair determined that the application met all necessary requirements and was approved through designated member review (DMR). FCR was not required.

- **Amendments and Renewals**

Title	Number	PI Name	Submission Type	Expiration Date	Amendment
Analysis of bio-specimens by mass spectrometry and immunoblotting techniques for	4444	Bazan, Nicolas	Amended	March 31, 2027	Change in Personnel

identification of lipid mediators					
IRBP in the visual cycles and retinal diseases	6453	Jin, Minghao	Amended	December 19, 2028	Change in Personnel
Targeting the Renin System for the Treatment of Pain and Opioid Use Disorder	8032	Edwards, Scott	Amended	January 28, 2030	Change in Personnel
SRP-001: A Non-Opioid and Non-Hepatotoxic Analgesic for the Treatment of Pain in the Context of Substance Use Disorder	9463	Edwards, Scott	Amended	September 29, 2030	Change in Personnel
Brain reward and stress system interactions in alcohol dependence	4487	Avegno, Elizabeth	Amended	June 20, 2027	Change in Personnel
Preclinical investigation of a novel oncolytic virus in the treatment of pancreatic cancer	5154	Moaven, Omeed	Amended	June 21, 2028	Change personnel
Evaluation of BloodSTOP-iX for Wound Healing and Antibacterial Efficacy in MRSA-Infected Surgical Wounds Using a Porcine Model	9715	Smith, Alison	Amended	November 07, 2030	Change in Personnel

Viral Oncology Research Lab – In Vitro Techniques	2473	West, John	Amended	December 06, 2027	Change in Personnel
Viral Oncology Research Lab – Human Tissues	2470	Wood, Charles	Amended	December 21, 2026	Change in Personnel
Neuropeptide studies	2563	Whim, Matthew	Amended	May 19, 2026	Addition of experimental material
Animal Holding Protocol	7986	Caro, Adam	Amended	December 20, 2029	Change in Personnel Change in PI
Cell-specific Lipid Mediators Necessary for RPE Cell Survival	4494	Bazan, Nicolas	Amended	May 12, 2028	Addition of experimental material
Signaling for Cell Survival	5213	Bazan, Nicolas	Amended	July 14, 2028	Change in Personnel
Role of alpha2 adrenergic receptor antagonism in treating misuse of fentanyl adulterated with xylazine	9419	Pahng, Amanda	Amended	August 18, 2030	Change in Personnel Extension of study duration
Antidepressant effects of psychedelics in rodents	6379	Nichols, Charles	Amended	November 27, 2028	Change in personnel
Mechanism of action of metformin in triple negative breast cancer	7338	Liu, Bolin	Amended	July 15, 2029	Change in personnel

Generation and characterization of CAR-expressed immune cells	4497	Miele, Lucio	Amended	August 25, 2027	Change in personnel
Dual antiviral drugs to treat infectious diseases	7221	Miele, Lucio	Amended	May 02, 2029	Change in personnel
Spinal Cord Injury Neuroprotection and Functional Recovery	4794	Bazan, Nicolas	Amended	April 12, 2028	Change in personnel
Novel Neuroprotective lipid mediators for Ischemic Stroke	4639	Bazan, Nicolas	Amended	November 01, 2027	Change in personnel
Development of Vapor Inhalation Chambers for Drug Self-Administration in Rodents	4887	Gilpin, Nicholas	Amended	December 08, 2027	Change in personnel
Role of Neuropeptides in Stress-Induced Escalation of Alcohol Drinking	4457	Gilpin, Nicholas	Amended	August 15, 2027	Change in personnel
RPE Messengers, Transcription and Photoreceptor	2523	Bazan, Nicolas	Amended	August 26, 2026	Change in personnel
Colony of Genetically engineered mice (Knock-out and transgenic) and Transgenic Rats for studies in brain	9343	Bazan, Nicolas	Amended	July 15, 2030	Change in personnel

and retinal injuries and diseases					
Investigation Into the Shear Bond Strength of Differently Sized Aligner Attachments Onto Enamel, Monolithic Zirconia, and Lithium Disilicate Surfaces	8014	Ballard, Richard	Renewed	January 08, 2030	
Investigation of in office dental varnishes and their preventative effects on enamel demineralization around orthodontic brackets	7992	Armbruster, Paul	Renewed	January 08, 2030	
Understanding the neural basis of spontaneous obesity in FEI mice	6600	Biose, Ifechukwude	Renewed	December 19, 2028	
Precision Medicine SARS-CoV-2 Testing	6682	Crabtree, Judy	Renewed	January 26, 2029	
NR4A1 is downregulated in Triple Negative Breast Cancer	4936	Alahari, Suresh	Renewed	January 17, 2028	
Comparative evaluation of shear bond strength, adhesive remnant index,	7991	Armbruster, Paul	Renewed	January 21, 2030	

and surface irregularities of metal and ceramic orthodontic brackets bonded to three-dimensionally printed materials: an in vitro study					
Intraosseous Antibiotics for Point of Injury Wound Prophylaxis	4741	Rivera, Jessica	Renewed	February 9, 2028	
Alcohol and traumatic brain injury: neuronal and behavioral consequences	5023	Molina, Patricia	Renewed	February 17, 2028	
The Effect of Increasing Dietary Protein on the Gut Microbiota	5006	Byerley, Lauri	Renewed	January 29, 2028	
Development and Utilization of a SARS-COV-2 (COVID-19) Serological Assay	8295	Hagensee, Michael	Renewed	February 03, 2030	
Epigenomics in muscle with alcohol use in aging people (epiMAP study)	2457	Simon Peter, Liz	Renewed/Amended	January 25, 2027	Change in personnel
Arthrofibrosis control using small molecule inhibitors of interleukin-11	8006	Marrero, Luis	Renewed/Amended	January 15, 2030	Update in funding information

Molecular Mechanisms underlying neural circuit development and vocal communication	2441	Li, Xiao Ching	Renewed/Amended	February 25, 2027	Change in personnel Change in study location/facilities
Role of heparan sulfate 6-O-endosulfatases in myelopoiesis and myeloid cell function	4970	Yue, Xinping	Renewed/Amended	February 06, 2028	Update in IACUC status or number
Role of Protein S, an anticoagulant in Pancreatic Cancer	4860	Majumder, Rinku	Renewed/Amended	January 17, 2028	Change in experimental design Addition of experimental material
Development of a sensitive method to measure the activity of heparan sulfate 6-O-endosulfatase	6693	Yue, Xinping	Renewed/Amended	February 05, 2029	Update in IACUC status or number

- Applications reviewed and Suspended (in Grace Period) by the Chair after modifications requested by FCR. Continuing IBC oversight is required with annual reviews.

N/A

- Full Committee Review of applications subject to *NIH Guidelines and our Policies*. Continuing IBC oversight required.

1:38pm	IBC #10158	Gene and Stem Cell Therapy for Cystic Fibrosis
	PI Name	Wang, Guoshun
	Project Overview	Cystic fibrosis (CF) is a genetic disease that primarily affects the lungs and digestive system, leading to chronic infections and inflammation. This project is developing and testing gene therapy approaches designed to improve immune and lung function in models of CF. Researchers will evaluate two strategies: modifying blood-forming stem cells with gene therapy before returning them to the body, and delivering gene therapy directly to the lungs through inhalation. The study will assess how effectively these approaches transfer genes and whether they may help protect against disease-related complications.
	NIH Guidelines Section(s)	III-E-1 III-D-4-a

Risk Assessment & Discussion	Personnel working in the laboratory will use appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), including gloves, lab coats or disposable gowns, head covers, and surgical masks. All work involving biohazardous materials will be conducted within a certified Class II biosafety cabinet (BSL-2 rated) to ensure proper containment and minimize exposure risk.
Training	All institutional trainings required are complete for lab staff listed in the registration: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COI in Research • Laboratory Safety • IBC Compliance • BBP High Risk
EH&S Assessment	The lab was inspected, and deficiencies have been corrected.
Occupational Health Representative review (if applicable)	N/A
Biosafety Level Assignment	BSL-2 ABSL-1
IACUC status (if applicable)	Applications approved
IBC Vote	The Primary Reviewer made a motion to assign the determination of Modifications Required to Secure Approval (MRSA) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Votes: 10/10 MRSA • COI: None reported <p>Following a duly called vote of the committee, Dr. Wang’s protocol was conditionally approved, pending submission and approval of the requested revisions by the Primary Reviewer.</p> <p>*One member left early; quorum remained present.</p>
IBC #7265	Fungal-bacterial dynamics driving dysregulated host responses and lethal synergism
PI Name	Fidel, Paul
Project Overview	This amendment expands the study to include an additional vaccination strategy using an attenuated strain of <i>Coccidioides posadasii</i> . The goal is to evaluate whether this vaccine approach can help protect against severe abdominal infections caused by fungal and bacterial pathogens. This addition builds on preliminary data suggesting the strain is safe and may provide protective immune responses. The modification does not change the overall objectives of the project but broadens the scope to evaluate a potential new vaccine strategy for preventing serious infections and sepsis.
NIH Guidelines Section(s)	III-D-4-b
Risk Assessment & Discussion	Personnel working in the laboratory will use appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), including gloves, lab coats or disposable gowns, head covers, face shield, and surgical masks. All work involving biohazardous materials will be conducted within a certified Class II biosafety cabinet (BSL-2 rated) to ensure proper containment and minimize exposure risk.

2:00pm

Training	All institutional trainings required are complete for lab staff listed in the registration: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COI in Research • Laboratory Safety • IBC Compliance • BBP High Risk
EH&S Assessment	The lab was inspected, and no deficiencies were found.
Occupational Health Representative review (if applicable)	N/A
Biosafety Level Assignment	BSL-2 ABSL-2
IACUC status (if applicable)	Application approved
IBC Vote	The Primary Reviewer made a motion to assign the determination of Modifications Required to Secure Approval (MRSA). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Votes: 9/9* MRSA • COI: None reported <p>Following a duly called vote of the committee, Dr. Fidel’s amendment was conditionally approved, pending submission and approval of the requested revisions by the Primary Reviewer.</p> <p>*One member left early; quorum remained present.</p>
IBC #2469	Murine Models for Cancer Immunology and Immunotherapy
PI Name	Ochoa, Augusto
Project Overview	This amendment includes several administrative and experimental updates to the protocol. The amendment also adds the use of a second-generation lentiviral vector encoding luciferase and GFP to label mouse cancer cells, enabling in vivo tracking of tumor growth. Additional rodent tumor models for breast and prostate cancer will be included, while previously proposed experiments involving Cpt1-specific knockout mice have been removed.
NIH Guidelines Section(s)	III-E-1 Section III-F-8, Appendix C-VIII
Risk Assessment & Discussion	Personnel working in the laboratory will use appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), including gloves, lab coats or disposable gowns, head covers, face shield, foot coverings, and surgical masks. All work involving biohazardous materials will be conducted within a certified Class II biosafety cabinet (BSL-2 rated) to ensure proper containment and minimize exposure risk.
Training	All institutional trainings required are complete for lab staff listed in the registration: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COI in Research • Laboratory Safety • IBC Compliance

2:15pm

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BBP High Risk
EH&S Assessment	The lab was inspected, and deficiencies have been corrected.
Occupational Health Representative review (if applicable)	N/A
Biosafety Level Assignment	BSL-2 ABSL-2
IACUC status (if applicable)	Application approved
IBC Vote	<p>The Primary Reviewer made a motion to assign the determination of Modifications Required to Secure Approval (MRSA).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Votes: 9/9* MRSA • COI: None reported <p>Following a duly called vote of the committee, Dr. Ochoa’s amendment was conditionally approved, pending submission and approval of the requested revisions by the Primary Reviewer.</p> <p>*One member left early; quorum remained present.</p>

2:36pm **Adjournment**

The IBC Chair moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:36PM. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, February 11, 2025, via Zoom.