LSU Health NEW ORLEANS
Institutional Biosafety Committee

LSU HSC-New Orleans Institutional Biosafety Committee
Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, November 20, 2025
Time: 10:00AM-11:52AM
Location: Zoom

Members present:
1. Zea, *IBC Chair*
2. Catling, *IBC Vice Chair*
3. Didier Mejia, *BSO*
4. Aiyar
5. Birke, *Animal Containment*
6. Siggins
7. Zabaleta

Members excused:
1. Wang
2. Yue
3. Curran, *Local Non-affiliated Member*
4. 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*

10:02am **Quorum Present**
The IBC has 11 voting members and 6 are required to conduct business

10:05am **Call to Order**
The IBC Chair called the meeting to order

10:05am **Conflicts of Interest**
The IBC Chair reminded all members present to identify any conflicts of interest as each application is reviewed.

10:07am **Review and approval of previous meeting minutes**
- October 8, 2025

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

10:08am **Review of Prior Business**
No prior business at this time

10:08am **New 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.lsuhsc.edu/administration/academic/ors/ibc/au_meeting_dates.aspx

- 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.lsuhsc.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 Drs. Caro and Baker as committee members beginning in January.

10:15am **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 animals are transferred to Dr. Shen. Dr. Shen added IACUC 4925 to IBC 7155. IACUC 4918 still references DOD funds (currently being routed to transfer to Dr. Zabaleta)*

- **Protocols that are suspended, in "Grace Period" and destined for administrative closure:**

Title	Number	PI Name	Review Type	Continuing Review Date	Expiration Date
SARS-CoV-2 tropism in the brain and its relationship to COVID-19 pathogenesis	2492	Lazartigues, Eric	Designated Member Review	November 11, 2025	November 11, 2026
Targeting ACE2 ubiquitination in hypertension	7275	Lazartigues, Eric	Designated Member Review	October 14, 2025	October 14, 2029

10:29am **Inspections/Ongoing Oversight**

- **EH&S**

Environmental Health & Safety (EH&S) reported that the most recent laboratory inspection cycle was completed in November, and that a new inspection cycle will begin in January.

10:30am **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**

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IBC #9762	IMPROVING MATERIAL FOR VERTEBRAL BODY TETHERING USING SOFT TISSUE ALLOGRAFTS
PI Name	Clement, Rutledge
Project Overview	Adolescent idiopathic scoliosis (AIS) is a condition where a teen's spine curves as they grow. The current surgery, spinal fusion, straightens the spine but also stiffens it permanently. A newer option called Vertebral Body Tethering (VBT) helps guide the spine during growth while keeping more natural movement. However, the plastic cords used today can weaken and break. This study will test whether donated human tendons could be a safer and longer-lasting replacement for these cords. Tendons may better attach to bone and be more durable over time. Researchers will evaluate how well the tendon material supports the spine during growth and how the body responds to it. The goal is to improve scoliosis treatment so teens can keep more motion and avoid future complications from broken tethers.
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, surgical mask or N95, respirator, chemical fume hood, show covers, and BSL2 rated biosafety cabinet.
Training	All institutional trainings required are complete for lab staff listed in the registration: • 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 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 #9969	**Synaptic, dendritic and neural plasticity mechanisms**
PI Name	Middleton, Jason
Project Overview	This study looks at how brain cells change their shape and connections, which is important for learning, memory, and recovery after injury. A motor protein called kinesin-5 may help control these changes, but its role in fully developed brain cells is not yet clear. Researchers will study rat brain tissue outside the body to see how blocking kinesin-5 affects nerve cell structure and activity. All work is done using standard, non-infectious methods at the lowest biosafety level (BSL-1). The findings could improve understanding of how the brain adapts and may support future treatments for neurological disease or injury.

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: • 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-1 ABSL-1
IACUC 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 #9980	**Biomarkers for neonatal and pediatric gut inflammatory conditions**
PI Name	Kim, Sunyoung
Project Overview	This project aims to find better ways to diagnose inflammatory diseases in the gut of preterm infants and children. Nurses and physicians will collect leftover blood and stool samples during routine hospital care, and these samples will be safely stored in a biobank. In the laboratory, researchers will measure specific proteins that may signal inflammation and compare these findings with clinical information such as age, feeding, medications, and surgeries. By identifying reliable biomarkers, this study could lead to earlier and more accurate diagnosis of serious gut complications in young patients.
NIH Guidelines Section(s)	N/A
Risk Assessment & Discussion	Personnel working in the laboratory will use appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), including gloves, surgical mask, lab coats or disposable gowns, eye goggles, and BSL-2 rated Biosafety cabinet.
Training	All institutional trainings required are complete for lab staff listed in the registration: • COI in Research • Laboratory Safety • IBC Compliance • BBP High Risk • BioSafety: Shipping Biological Materials
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.

- **Amendments and Renewals**

Title	Number	PI Name	Submission Type	Expiration Date	Amendment
Development of protective vaccine and antibody as Immunotherapies for Disseminated Candidiasis and MDR infections	5011	Xin, Hong	Amended	January 31, 2028	Addition of experimental material
Chemoprevention of Breast Cancer by Targeting Glucose Metabolism with HJC0152	7655	Shen, Qiang	Amended	October 11, 2029	Addition of experimental material
Mechanisms of Immune Response Evasion and Resistance in Prostate, Breast, Colon and Kidney Tumors.	7527	Zea, Arnold	Amended	July 29, 2029	Update to safety procedures or equipment Correction or clarification of protocol details
Effects of Upregulating ANKHD1 on Aging and Neuronal Degeneration	4446	Tian, Xiaolin	Amended	March 31, 2027	Addition of experimental material
Sex Specific Effects of Adolescent Alcohol Exposure on BNST Plasticity	4027	Wills, Tiffany	Amended	January 20, 2026	Change in Personnel
Targeting Glucose Metabolism with	7695	Shen, Qiang	Amended	October 01, 2029	Change in Personnel

HJC0152 for Treating Metastatic Breast Cancer					
Geroprotective Precision Medicine Strategies in PWH that Use Alcohol	9326	Welsh, David	Amended	September 17, 2030	Change in funding source or sponsor Addition of experimental material
ADHD and the influence of adolescent alcohol consumption on cognition and behavior	7627	Salling, Michael	Amended	October 14, 2029	Change in Personnel
Novel cell signaling in PANS syndrome patients	9921	Bazan, Haydee	Amended	October 08, 2030	Change in personnel
Neuroprotective Effect of Docosanoids in Experimental Traumatic Brain Injury	5612	Bazan, Nicolas	Amended	August 14, 2028	Change in Personnel
Behavioral studies after stroke and traumatic brain injury	4445	Bazan, Nicolas	Amended	April 08, 2027	Change in Personnel
Animal Holding Protocol	7986	Birke, Leslie	Amended	December 20, 2029	Change in Personnel
Synaptic Transmission in Cerebellum, Cellular Mechanisms Underlying the Long-Term Potentiation of GABA Release	2544	Liu, Si-Qiong	Amended	May 25, 2026	Change in Personnel
Sex Specific Effects of Adolescent Alcohol Exposure on BNST Plasticity	4027	Wills, Tiffany	Amended	January 20, 2026	Change in Personnel
Novel cell signaling in PANS syndrome patients	9921	Bazan, Haydee	Amended	October 08, 2030	Change in personnel

Long-Term Effects of Adolescent Alcohol on Pain	8651	Gilpin, Nicholas	Amended	May 26, 2030	Change in Personnel
COVID-19 Turbo Test platform (CoTTP)	4849	Busso, Carlos	Renewed	November 23, 2027	
Surveillance of HPV genotype specific prevalence in the post-vaccine era	6440	Cameron, Jennifer	Renewed	November 20, 2028	
Development of a dissolution agent to treat Sialolithiasis	4843	Walvekar, Rohan	Renewed	November 22, 2027	
Interphotoreceptor retinoid-binding protein in retinal health and disease	2476	Jin, Minghao	Renewed	December 23, 2026	
NIH RECOVER: A Multi-site Observational Study of Post-Acute Sequelae of SARS-CoV-2 Infection in Adults	2481	Shellito, Judd	Renewed	November 24, 2026	
Microbial Genomics Core Facility	5995	Luo, Meng	Renewed	November 16, 2028	
Gastrointestinal Mucosal Immunity & Barrier Function and Microbiota-Host Interactions in Virally Suppressed HIV Infection	4822	Welsh, David	Renewed	November 29, 2027	
ADHD and the influence of adolescent alcohol consumption on cognition and behavior	7627	Salling, Michael	Renewed	October 14, 2029	
BrpA in Virulence Modulation of Streptococcus mutans	6323	Wen, Zezhang	Renewed/Amended	November 20, 2028	Change in Personnel

Southern "All of Us" Research Program	4875	Miele, Lucio	Renewed/Amended	December 06, 2027	Update in funding information
The Effects of Alcohol on Wound Healing in Murine MRSA-Infected Excisional Wound Model	6477	Smith, Alison	Renewed/Amended	December 05, 2028	Change in Personnel
Evaluation of Localized Pulmonary TH1 Response Via Sputum Analysis in Association with Mycobacterium Avium Complex-Pulmonary Disease	2493	Korah-Sedgwick, Michelle	Renewed/Amended	November 01, 2026	Change in Personnel
Association between epigenetic changes, periodontal microbiota, and periodontal inflammation in obese individuals	8380	Joshi, Vinayak	Renewed/Amended	March 18, 2030	Update in IRB status or number
Immunology and Respirometry of Burn Wounds and TBI Murine Model	5608	Smith, Alison	Renewed/Amended	August 29, 2028	Change in personnel
Antidepressant effects of psychedelics in rodents	6379	Nichols, Charles	Renewed/Amended	November 27, 2028	Addition of experimental material
The Use of BloodSTOP iX Trauma Matrix for Tissue Regeneration in a Porcine Burn Model	7549	Smith, Alison	Renewed/Amended	October 30, 2029	Change in personnel
Generation and validation of a CRFR1-cre transgenic rat to	4882	Gilpin, Nicholas	Renewed/Amended	December 12, 2027	Change in personnel

study alcohol dependence					

- **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.**

10:32am

IBC #10041	Sex Specific Effects of Adolescent Alcohol Exposure on BNST Plasticity
PI Name	Wills, Tiffany
Project Overview	Drinking alcohol during the teenage years can cause lasting changes in the brain that increase the risk of alcohol problems later in life. This research studies how early alcohol exposure affects brain circuits involved in stress, anxiety, and pain, with a focus on a brain region that plays an important role in emotional control and alcohol withdrawal. Using established animal models and research tools, the study focuses on specific brain areas involved in emotion and stress to understand how their activity is altered. The goal is to identify brain changes that contribute to alcohol- and stress-related behaviors, which may help guide future approaches to prevention and treatment.
NIH Guidelines Section(s)	III-F-8 Appx C-VIII III-D-4-b III-F-1
Risk Assessment & Discussion	Personnel working in the laboratory will use appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), including gloves, lab coats or disposable gowns, head covers, eye googles, and surgical masks. All work involving biohazardous materials will be conducted within a certified chemical fume hood to ensure proper containment and minimize exposure risk.
Training	All institutional trainings required are complete for lab staff listed in the registration: • 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-1 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) • Votes: 7/7 • COI: None reported

		Following a duly called vote of the committee, Dr. Wills' protocol was conditionally approved, pending submission and approval of the requested revisions by the Primary Reviewer.
	IBC #7655	**Chemoprevention of Breast Cancer by Targeting Glucose Metabolism with HJC0152**
10:42am	**PI Name**	Shen, Qiang
	Project Overview	This amendment adds the procurement and use of specific plasmids to support mechanistic studies of the novel small molecule HJC0152, which has been shown to regulate glucose and lipid metabolism and suppress breast cancer progression. The additional materials will be obtained from Addgene and will be used to validate metabolic mechanisms, assess redox and $NADH/NAD^+$ signaling, and investigate potential molecular targets, including CISD1, CISD2, and PLIN2.
	NIH Guidelines Section(s)	III-E-1 III-D-1-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, 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.
	Training	All institutional trainings required are complete for lab staff listed in the registration: • 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). • Votes: 7/7 MRSA • COI: None reported Following a duly called vote of the committee, Dr. Shen's amendment was conditionally approved, pending submission and approval of the requested revisions by the Primary Reviewer.
	IBC #5011	**Development of protective vaccine and antibody as Immunotherapies for Disseminated Candidiasis and MDR infections**
11:00am	**PI Name**	Xin, Hong

Project Overview	This amendment expands the scope of the approved study to include additional medically relevant fungal organisms: *Candida tropicalis* (ATCC 200956), *Candida glabrata* (ATCC 200918), and *Candida auris* (CDC AR Bank #0386). These organisms will be incorporated into the existing experimental procedures without changes to the overall study design, animal monitoring, or humane endpoints. The amendment also includes the addition of a standard operating procedure (SOP) for the use and handling of cyclophosphamide. All work will be conducted in accordance with approved biosafety and containment requirements.
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. Enhanced decontamination procedures will be implemented in accordance with EPA List P recommendations for disinfectants effective against *Candida auris*. Laboratory surfaces, equipment, and BSC interiors will be decontaminated using EPA-registered sporicidal disinfectants with appropriate contact times. To reduce the risk of aerosol or splash generation, disinfectant wipes will be used as the primary method, with liquid disinfectants applied only when wipes are not feasible, such as for larger equipment or spill response within a BSC.
Training	All institutional trainings required are complete for lab staff listed in the registration: • 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)	*Candida* species are fungal organisms that typically do not cause disease in immunocompetent individuals. However, immunocompromised individuals and pregnant persons may be at increased risk of infection and are encouraged to self-identify to Occupational Health for appropriate evaluation, guidance, and counseling.
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 Deferred for Information. • Votes: 7/7 Defer for Information • COI: None reported

	Following a duly called vote of the committee, Dr. Xin's amendment, which was previously Deferred for Information, was approved contingent upon submission and approval of the requested revisions by the Primary Reviewer.

11:52am **Adjournment**

The IBC Chair moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:52AM. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 10, 2025, via Zoom.