DONALD DANFORTH
PLANT SCIENCE CENTER
DISCOVERY | COMMUNITY | IMPACT

Institutional Biosafety Committee Meeting Minutes

September 4, 2025

Location: Zoom Meeting **Time:** 3:03 PM

IBC Members present

Sandra Arango-Caro	Human Subjects Expert
Ru Zhang	Plant/Lab Technical Expert
Rosalee Knipp	IBC Community Member
Kevin Reilly	Plant Containment Expert
Jim Cox	EHS Expert
Ross Johnson	Recombinant and Synthetic Nucleic Acids Expert
Veena Veena	Recombinant and Synthetic Nucleic Acids Expert
Wendy Olivas	IBC Community Member (local)
Katie Siech	Biosafety Specialist
Beth Elam Michaud	IBC Community Member (local)
Brooke Schmitt	IBC Administrator, Non-Voting

IBC Members absent

Sona Pandey	IBC Chair
Bing Yang	Recombinant and Synthetic Nucleic Acids and Pathogen Expert
Mindy Darnell	Biological Safety Officer

I. Old Business

A. Approval of Minutes – July 10th

1. 10-yes/0-no/0-abstentions.

B. Closed Items (Protocols fully approved between meetings):

1. Protocols or Amendments previously granted contingent approval by the full IBC where the PI responses were reviewed and approved between meetings by the BSO or designee:
    - Andrea Eveland, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – New) IBC Protocol #: IBC25-0030
    - Kirk Czymmek, Ph.D., (IBC Amendment) IBC Protocol #: IBC25-0013
    - Keith Slotkin, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – New) IBC Protocol #: IBC25-0043

2. Protocols or Amendments not meeting threshold of requiring full committee review based on NIH guidelines and DDPSC IBC Policy that were reviewed and approved by the BSO or designee:
    - Doug Allen, Ph.D., (IBC Amendment) IBC Protocol #: IBC25-0033
    - Armando Bravo, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – New) IBC Protocol #: IBC25-0032
    - Justin Conover, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – New) IBC Protocol #: IBC25-0047
    - Allison Miller, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – New) IBC Protocol #: IBC25-0050
    - Ivan Baxter, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – New) IBC Protocol #: IBC25-0049
3. Annual Reviews that were reviewed and approved by the BSO or designee:
    - Doug Allen, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – Annual Review) IBC Protocol #: IBC23-0033
    - Dmitri Nusinow, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – Annual Review) IBC Protocol #: IBC21-0059
    - Sona Pandey, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – Annual Review) IBC Protocol #: IBC21-0034
    - Doug Allen, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – Annual Review) IBC Protocol #: IBC22-0042
    - Ivan Baxter, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – Annual Review) IBC Protocol #: IBC23-0037
    - Keith Slotkin, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – Annual Review) IBC Protocol #: IBC22-0021
4. Protocols Closed (at the request of the PI):
    - Don Mackenzie, Ph.D., IBC Protocol #: IBC21-0054

C. Open Items (Protocols reviewed by the IBC but not fully approved)

1. New protocols previously granted contingent approval by the full IBC where the PI responses have not yet been approved:
    - None

II. New Business

A. New Protocols

Principle Investigator	Nigel Taylor
Protocol #	IBC25-0041
Title	Establish an efficient pipeline for tomato transformation

Protocol Description	The goal of this proposal is to establish an efficient pipeline for tomato transformation and generate plants overexpressing a gene.
Types of Organisms	Plant
NIH Guidelines Agents	rsNA
NIH Guidelines Section	III-3-E
Containment Level	BSL-1
IBC Review	The committee reviewed and discussed containment levels, personnel training, facilities involved, procedures and practices, agent characteristics (if applicable), and rsNA details (if applicable).
IBC comments (to be addressed by PI)	The IBC requested additional details related to the rsNA work. The PI is asked to specify the maximum volume of culture grown and the source of the genetic material that will be expressed. They are asked to provide a risk for accidental exposure or release to the environment.
IBC Decision	The IBC voted to contingently approve the protocol (10-yes 0-no/0-abstention).

Principle Investigator	Erin Sparks
Protocol #	IBC25-0048
Title	Maize lineage tracing lines for tracking plant developmental trajectories.
Protocol Description	These transgenic lines will be used to trace the developmental lineage of cells in maize.
Types of Organisms	Plant
NIH Guidelines Agents	rsNA
NIH Guidelines Section	III-3-E
Containment Level	BSL-1
IBC Review	The committee reviewed and discussed containment levels, personnel training, facilities involved, procedures and practices, agent characteristics (if applicable), and rsNA details (if applicable).
IBC comments (to be addressed by PI)	None
IBC Decision	The IBC voted to approve the protocol (10-yes 0-no/0-abstention).

Principle Investigator	Armando Bravo
Protocol #	IBC25-0056
Title	Seedling Solutions – Survey of fungal communities in a field under low nitrogen
Protocol Description	This project aims to study soil fungal community population dynamics under different conditions in a field experiment. Some plots will be inoculated with two strains of fungi and then examined alongside native fungal communities.
Types of Manipulation	Plant
Agents	N/A
Containment level	BSL-1
Applicable section of NIH Guidelines	N/A
IBC Review	The committee reviewed and discussed containment levels, personnel training, facilities involved, procedures and practices, agent characteristics (if applicable), and rsNA details (if applicable).
IBC comments (to be addressed by PI)	The IBC requested additional details on the field work. The PI is asked to specify the amount of fungi that will be applied to the field.
IBC Decision	The IBC voted to contingently approve the protocol (10-yes 0-no/0-abstention).

B. Amendments & Continuing Reviews of Approved Protocols:

None

C. Other Business:

1. Welcomed Wendy Olivas, a local community member and professor at UMSL to the IBC.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:35 PM.

Reviewed and approved by:

Sona Pandey
Sona Pandey (Sep 22, 2025 13:58:24 CDT)

Sona Pandey, Ph.D.

Member, Principal Investigator

Institutional Biosafety Committee Chair

Mindy Darnell
Mindy Darnell (Sep 22, 2025 12:35:29 CDT)

Mindy Darnell, M.S.

Director, Environmental Health & Safety and Biosafety

Biological Safety Officer