

Institutional Biosafety Committee Meeting Minutes

October 2, 2025

Location: Zoom Meeting

Time: 3:01 PM

IBC Members present

Sandra Arango-Caro	Human Subjects Expert
Ru Zhang	Plant/Lab Technical Expert
Sonda Pandey	IBC Chair
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
Mindy Darnell	Biological Safety Officer
Brooke Schmitt	IBC Administrator, Non-Voting

IBC Members absent

Rosalee Knipp	IBC Community Member
Bing Yang	Recombinant and Synthetic Nucleic Acids and Pathogen Expert
Beth Elam Michaurd	IBC Community Member (local)

I. Old Business

A. Approval of Minutes – September 4th

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:
 - Ru Zhang, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – New) IBC Protocol #: IBC24-0052
 - Nigel Taylor, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – New) IBC Protocol #: IBC25-0041

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:
 - Russell Williams, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol - New) IBC Protocol #: IBC25-0057
3. Annual Reviews that were reviewed and approved by the BSO or designee:
 - James Umen, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – Annual Review) IBC Protocol #: IBC23-0048
 - Ivan Baxter, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – Annual Review) IBC Protocol #: IBC21-0067
 - Dmitri Nusinow, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – Annual Review) IBC Protocol #: IBC21-0063
4. Protocols Closed (at the request of the PI):
 - Rebecca Bart, Ph.D., IBC Protocol #: IBC24-0011
 - Rebecca Bart, Ph.D., IBC Protocol #: IBC21-0037
 - Rebecca Bart, Ph.D., IBC Protocol #: IBC21-0043
 - Ivan Baxter, Ph.D., IBC Protocol #: IBC20-0046

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:
 - Armando Bavo, Ph.D., IBC Protocol #: IBC25-0056

II. New Business

A. New Protocols

Principle Investigator	Tessa Burch-Smith
Protocol #	IBC25-0004
Title	Investigating the role of ATM1, a class VIII myosin, in Arabidopsis root cell proliferation
Protocol Description	Investigating the role of ATM using Arabidopsis and Tobacco plants.
Types of Organisms	Plant, Virus
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 material that the plant will be infected with and how they will do it. The PI is asked to provide the details above as well as clarify where these plants will be produced.
IBC Decision	The IBC voted to contingently approve the protocol (10-yes 0-no/0-abstention).

Principle Investigator	Ru Zhang
Protocol #	IBC25-0062
Title	Epigenetic Regulation of Heat Stress Memory in Photosynthetic Cells
Protocol Description	Studying thermotolerance in Green Algae and epigenetic changes associated with heat stress memory.
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 PI is asked to provide a biosafety level for humans and to add safety glasses to the list of PPE that should be worn.
IBC Decision	The IBC voted to contingently approve the protocol (8-yes 0-no/1-abstention).

B. Amendments & Continuing Reviews of Approved Protocols:

None

C. Other Business:

None

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:20 PM.

Reviewed and approved by:

Sona Pandey, Ph.D.

Member, Principal Investigator

Institutional Biosafety Committee Chair

Mindy Darnell, M.S.

Director, Environmental Health & Safety and Biosafety

Biological Safety Officer