August 2025 Institutional Biosafety Committee Meeting Minutes

Element	
Institution	Auburn University
Meeting Date	Wednesday, August 06, 2025
Meeting Time	1:10PM – 1:34PM
Meeting Type	Zoom
IBC Members Present	Present: Catherine Situma, IBC Secretary (acting as Chair) Deepika Suresh, BSO Kassie Conner, IBC Member, Plant Expert Ruediger Hauck, IBC Member, Faculty Rep Kevin Huggins, IBC Member, Faculty Rep Andrea Loewen, IBC Member, Institutional Policy Miranda Reed, IBC Member, Faculty Rep Pat Rynders, IBC Member, Veterinarian/Animal Expert David Acker, IBC Alternate Member, Alternate for Situma Niki Johnson, IBC Non-voting Member (*Ex officio*) Not Present: E.N. Burson, IBC Member, Local Non-Affiliated Andrew Fruge, IBC Member, IBC Chair Julio Garcia, IBC Member, Local Non-Affiliated Zachary Noel, IBC Member, Plant Expert Tonia Schwartz, IBC Member, Faculty Rep
Quorum	The IBC has 13 voting members, and 7 members are required to conduct business.
Other Individuals in Attendance	Valerie Riggins - IBC Administration Adrienne Booker - IBC Administration Nicholas May - Risk Management and Safety Rajesh Amin – Faculty, Drug Discovery & Development
Call to Order	The IBC Secretary (acting as Chair) called the meeting to order at 1:10 PM.
Conflicts of Interest, if Applicable	There were no conflicts of interest.
Review and Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes	No previous meeting minutes were reviewed/approved.

NEW IBC REGISTRATIONS	
PI Name(s)	Rajesh Amin
BUA Number	New Registration - SPROTO202500000039
Project Overview	This project aims to develop and evaluate novel small-molecule inhibitors of cholesterol biosynthesis–related protein. A stable cell line overexpressing that

	protein will be developed using lentiviral technology. This platform will create proteins that enable biochemical studies, in situ inhibition assays, and structural characterization, thereby providing insight into cholesterol dysregulation in neurodegenerative diseases.
NIH Guidelines Section	Section III-D-3-a
Risk Assessment and Discussion	• A commercially supplied, replication-incompetent lentiviral vector encoding cholesterol biosynthesis–related protein will be used to transduce a human cell line to establish a stable overexpressing line for protein purification and downstream assays. • The expressed protein is not a known toxin and is not associated with increased virulence; therefore, overexpression is not expected to confer pathogenicity. • The primary risk arises from the lentiviral delivery system, rather than the gene product itself, and this risk is minimized through the use of a third-generation, self-inactivating vector system. • The regulatory elements incorporated are of low hazard. • Lentiviral packaging functions are distributed across three separate plasmids, further reducing the possibility of generating replication-competent virus. • All lentiviral manipulations (receipt opening, thawing, aliquoting, mixing, addition to cells, removal of supernatant for decontamination) will all be conducted inside the certified Class II BSC. • Sealed rotors will be used for any centrifugation, and proper signage will be posted during active work. • After the experiments, all materials will be autoclaved or bleached and disposed of. • No additional containment beyond standard BL2 laboratory safety procedures is required. Monitoring and periodic review will ensure continued compliance and safety.
Training	All lab personnel have completed the required Laboratory Safety, Biological Safety, Managing Regulated Waste and NIH Guidelines training. The PI will conduct any protocol specific biosafety training and containment training.
Occupational Health Representative Review if Applicable	N/A
Biosafety Level Assignment	BL2
IBC Vote	A motion was made to approve the registration pending the following changes or conditions are met. • Add the ATCC catalog number for the cell lines. • Clarify that 10% bleach will be the concentration after adding bleach to the cell culture media. • Explain how the cells will be lysed and potential virus inactivated when purifying the recombinant protein. • Select the appropriate PPE that will be used. • Specify the gene functions/characteristics. • Add the product data sheet and biosafety data sheets.

	• Provide usage location. • Add additional details on liquid decontamination, rDNA, and surface decontamination. • Votes for: 8 • Votes against: 0 • Abstain: 0

BUA AMENDMENTS	
PI Name(s)	Katherine Rush
BUA Number	Amendment to Registration - BUA #1066 – (rDNA Amendment)
Project Overview	The goal of this research is to study enzyme catalysis by producing recombinant proteins in *Escherichia coli* expression strains. The laboratory will now in this amendment introduce genes of interest into E. coli C321.ΔA using expression vectors. The recombinant enzymes will be purified and studied in vitro (in a cell-free system), without intended use in live organisms or clinical applications.
NIH Guidelines Section	Section III-F-8-C-II
Risk Assessment and Discussion	• All containment measures under BL1 are recommended for all experiments with recombinant or synthetic recombinant. • Common T7 promoter-based expression plasmids and designed for high-level expression in E. coli strains. • Additional genes added in this amendment are not known for pathogenicity, toxin production, or oncogenic potential are being studied. • One of the genes is from bacteria, and it encodes a membrane transporter involved in mercury uptake. In this project, expression is followed by purification for in vitro use, not cell-associated function. • Another gene is involved in the post-translational modification of sulfatases. It is not associated with toxicity or pathogenicity. • After the experiments, all materials will be autoclaved or bleached and disposed of. • No additional containment beyond standard BL1 laboratory safety procedures is required. Monitoring and periodic review will ensure continued compliance and safety.
Training	All lab personnel have completed the required Laboratory Safety, Biological Safety, Managing Regulated Waste and NIH Guidelines training. The PI will conduct any protocol specific biosafety training and containment training.
Occupational Health Representative Review if Applicable	N/A
Biosafety Level Assignment	BL1

IBC Vote	A motion was made to approve the amendment. • Votes for: 8 • Votes against: 0 • Abstain: 0

ADDITIONAL IBC TOPICS	
Review of Prior Business	None
New Business/Additional Topics	None
Review of Incidents if Applicable	Nothing To Report
Inspections/Ongoing Oversight	Not Discussed During This Meeting. This Will Be Discussed Quarterly.
IBC Training if Applicable	N/A
Public Comments if Applicable	There were no public comments.
Adjournment	The IBC Secretary moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:34 PM. • Votes for: 8 • Votes against: 0 • Abstain: 0