November 2025 Institutional Biosafety Committee Meeting Minutes

Element	
Institution	Auburn University
Meeting Date	Wednesday, November 5, 2025
Meeting Time	1:04PM – 2:10PM
Meeting Type	Hybrid (In Person and Zoom)
IBC Members Present	Present: Kevin Huggins, IBC Member, IBC Chair Catherine Situma, IBC Secretary Deepika Suresh, BSO Kassie Conner, IBC Member, Plant Expert Ruediger Hauck, IBC Member, Faculty Rep Andrea Loewen, IBC Member, Institutional Policy Pat Rynders, IBC Member, Veterinarian/Animal Expert Niki Johnson, IBC Non-voting Member (*Ex officio*) Not Present: E.N. Burson, IBC Member, Local Non-Affiliated Julio Garcia, IBC Member, Local Non-Affiliated Zachary Noel, IBC Member, Plant Expert Miranda Reed, IBC Member, Faculty Rep David Acker, IBC Alternate Member, Alternate for Situma
Quorum	The IBC has 11 voting members, and 6 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 Jean-Francois Louf – Faculty, Chemical Engineering
Call to Order	The IBC Chair called the meeting to order at 1:04 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 - SPROTO202500000057
Project Overview	Transgenic animals containing human-based mutations for select genes that induce the development of Alzheimer's Disease will be used to test a new compound

	produced at Auburn University. The Alzheimer's Disease mice will be used to determine if we can improve memory and pathology.
NIH Guidelines Section	Section III-E-3 Section III-F-8-C-VII Section III-F-8-C-VIII
Risk Assessment and Discussion	• The transgenic animal models were not created at AU. • Experiments will be conducted on the transgenic animals to test the new compound for Alzheimer's Disease. • Breeding of the mice will be done in ABSL-1 containment (Housed in sealed boxes on ventilated racks within the restricted access vivarium) to obtain the numbers needed for the protocol. • The genetically engineered mice overexpress five specific human gene mutations associated with early-onset familial Alzheimer's Disease (FAD). • Exposure to these mutations does not cause Alzheimer's Disease in humans, since Alzheimer's is not transmissible. • The disease modeled in mice is neither infectious nor contagious. It cannot be transmitted from mice to humans through contact, bites, or bodily fluids. • The animals will be maintained with proper cage labeling and accurate animal numbers to prevent any accidental escape. • After the experiments, all materials will be autoclaved or incinerated and disposed of. • No additional containment beyond standard ABSL-1 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-N
IBC Vote	A motion was made to approve the registration pending the following changes or conditions are met. • Mention that the mouse being sourced from Jackson Labs is a cross between specific strains of mice. • Indicate that the breeding activities will be covered by an IACUC protocol and that the breeding details will be described in that document. • Add details about how the mice are housed. • Clarify if mice will be transported to locations outside of the vivarium. • Confirm with the facility PPE requirements and decontamination/waste disposal procedures. • Provide the general classification / broad category of the drug synthetized at AU. • Include the genus.

	• Provide details on what measures are in place to ensure mice will not escape. • Votes for: 7 • Votes against: 0 • Abstain: 0

PI Name(s)	Rajesh Amin
BUA Number	New Registration - SPROTO202500000058
Project Overview	The investigator has created inhibitors for the enzyme legumain. To test these inhibitors, an inducible knock-out animal of AEP using Cre-Lox mice will be created.
NIH Guidelines Section	Section III-E-3 Section III-F-8-C-VII Section III-F-8-C-VIII
Risk Assessment and Discussion	• AEP breeders will be purchased from Cyagen. This mouse will be crossed with a SLICK H mouse purchased from Jackson Labs. • The mouse will be inducible by tamoxifen for cre- activation. • Once this animal is created it will then be crossed with Alzheimer's Disease mice (Tau and amyloid beta) expressing mice. • Breeding of the mice will be done in ABSL-1 containment (Housed in sealed boxes on ventilated racks within the restricted access vivarium) to obtain the numbers needed for the protocol. • Exposure to these mutations does not cause Alzheimer's Disease in humans, since Alzheimer's is not transmissible. • The disease modeled in mice is neither infectious nor contagious. It cannot be transmitted from mice to humans through contact, bites, or bodily fluids. • The animals will be maintained on ventilated caging racks with proper cage labeling and accurate animal numbers to prevent any accidental escape. • After the experiments, all materials will be autoclaved or incinerated and disposed of. • No additional containment beyond standard ABSL-1 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-N
IBC Vote	A motion was made to approve the registration pending the following changes or conditions are met.

	• Provide details on how the animals are housed (e.g., cage and bedding material). • Select yes since syringes are used during Tamoxifen administration. • Check Section III-F-8-C-VIII Generation of BL1 Transgenic Rodents via Breeding. • Provide details on what measures are in place to ensure mice will not escape. • Please add details concerning quarantine period, PPE, and practices. • Clarify whether Doxycycline or Tamoxifen is being administered. • Votes for: 7 • Votes against: 0 • Abstain: 0

PI Name(s)	Jean-Francois Louf
BUA Number	New Registration - SPROTO202500000062
Project Overview	This research involves growing and analyzing genetically modified Arabidopsis thaliana lines to investigate how plants perceive and respond to mechanical stimuli, particularly sound.
NIH Guidelines Section	Section III-E-2-a
Risk Assessment and Discussion	• The transgenic Arabidopsis thaliana lines were not created at AU. It is procured from the external entity ABRC – Arabidopsis Biological Resource Center. • The transgenic Arabidopsis lines express fluorescent molecular reporters that help to monitor real-time cellular and biochemical responses. • The project also examines whether high-frequency airborne acoustic waves (≥100 kHz) can mimic gravity and guide root orientation. • Plants are grown on sterile agar media or in growth chambers under controlled environmental conditions in BL1 containment. • Acoustic treatments are performed inside closed acoustic chambers or within the growth chamber, with plants placed at defined distances from the transducers. • The room where the growth chambers are placed has restricted access. • Confocal and widefield microscopy are used to monitor subcellular dynamics and gene expression. • No breeding or cloning of plants occurs. • No microbial agents, animal tissues, or human-derived materials are used during these procedures. • Transgenic seeds are stored and labeled in sealed microcentrifuge tubes or seed envelopes inside locked laboratory storage units. • All transgenic lines are tracked in a digital inventory with identifiers, transformation details, and antibiotic selection markers. • After the experiments, all materials will be autoclaved or bleached and disposed of. • No additional containment beyond standard BSL-1 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-P
IBC Vote	A motion was made to defer the BUA registration pending additional information from the PI. • Provide details on why transgenic plants are being used for research, including goals and objectives of research. • Add information about transgenic lines and gene activity, and whether these transgenic lines are being generated. • Provide the catalog # or other documentation regarding all plants from ABRC. • Provide more detail on decontamination and waste disposal processes. • Add location of autoclave and autoclave parameters. • Provide details about the growth chambers (i.e., number of plants, incubation temperature, duration, how plants are watered) and experiments (i.e., stages plants are grown to, how they are cared for, when experiments end). • Provide transportation information between rooms within the facility, including what the covered containers are made of. • Provide containment information and all procedures taken to ensure release of these plants into the environment does not occur. • List PPE that will be worn. • Add genus / species. • Provide additional information on seed harvest and storage. • Votes for: 7 • 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 Chair moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:10 PM. • Votes for: 7 • Votes against: 0 • Abstain: 0