LSU Health NEW ORLEANS
Institutional Biosafety Committee

LSU HSC-New Orleans Institutional Biosafety Committee
Meeting Minutes

Date: ~~Wednesday, May 13~~ Thursday, May 14, 2026
Time: 1:05PM-2:06PM
Location: Zoom

Members present:
1. Zea, *IBC Chair*
2. Didier Mejia, *BSO*
3. Aiyar
4. Baker
5. Curran, *Local Non-affiliated Member*
6. Siggins
7. Wang
8. Zabaleta
9. Yue
10. Caro, *Animal Containment*

Members excused:
1. Catling, *IBC Vice Chair*
2. Guidry, *Local Non-affiliated Member*
3. Fuselier, *Research Compliance Analyst II, IACUC/IBC*

Other Individuals Attendance:
1. Landry, *Research Compliance Analyst II, IBC/IACUC*
2. Burkett, *Affiliated EH&S*
3. Constans, *Director ORS*

1:00pm **Quorum Present**
The IBC has 12 voting members and 7 are required to conduct business

1:05pm **Call to Order**
The IBC Chair called the meeting to order

1:06pm **Conflicts of Interest**
The IBC Chair reminded all members present to identify any conflicts of interest as each application is reviewed.

1:06pm **Review and approval of previous meeting minutes**
- April 8, 2026

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

1:07pm **Review of Prior Business**
- OOF schedules
  - The committee discussed out-of-office schedules and coverage planning for upcoming vacations involving multiple members.
- ORS Monthly Newsletter

- A reminder was provided that the ORS Monthly Newsletter is distributed on the second Tuesday of each month and may be used for announcements and educational resources.

- NIH Biosafety Modernization Initiative Resources
  - Documents and resources related to the NIH Biosafety Modernization Initiative were also shared with the committee for review.
- Vote to Extend Committee Member Term
  - The committee voted unanimously to recommend extending Dr. Aiyar's committee term for an additional three years. The Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs (VCAA) concurred with the recommendation, and Dr. Aiyar's term was extended through April 13, 2029.

1:09pm **New Business**

- The committee was informed that the NIH Office of Science Policy (OSP) approved the annual report on March 23, 2026. The next annual report will be due on or before March 23, 2027, pending any changes to committee membership or registration information.
- The committee unanimously voted to appoint Dr. Foster as a new committee member with expertise in virology. The appointment was approved by the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs (VCAA). Dr. Foster's term will begin on June 1, 2026, and continue through June 1, 2029.

1:14pm **Review of Incidents & Non-compliance**

- **Administrative Closures Due to Inactivity from March 11, 2026 to April 8, 2026**

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
The effects of psychedelics on rats with mild cognitive impairment	4890	Nichols, Charles	Designated Member Review	February 09, 2026	February 09, 2028
Peptide-based PARP-1 inhibitors and replication deficient-oncolytic viruses as potential therapies against cancer**	5517	Boulares, Abdel	Full Committee	February 18, 2026	February 18, 2030
Nontuberculous Mycobacterium Clinical Database & Biospecimen Bank	5017	MacRae, Shelby	Designated Member Review	February 22, 2026	February 22, 2028
EFFECT OF CPR ON PERFUSION IN A PORCINE MODEL OF SEVERE HEMORRHAGIC SHOCK	5674	Greiffenstein, Patrick	Designated Member Review	February 22, 2026	February 22, 2029
Breast Microenvironment Signaling during Cancer Initiation	5188	Ochoa, Augusto	Designated Member Review	February 25, 2026	February 25, 2027

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

Title	Number	PI Name	Review Type	Continuing Review Date	Expiration Date
New Orleans Alcohol Use in HIV (NOAH) Study	4302	Welsh, David	Designated Member Review	March 31, 2026	March 31, 2027
Translational Genomics Core	5096	Zabaleta, Jovanny	Designated Member Review	April 26, 2026	April 26, 2028

1:16pm **Inspections/Ongoing Oversight**

- **EH&S**

EH&S reported concerns regarding the process for relocating laboratory space and/or equipment. The committee was reminded that submitting an amendment to the IBC protocol and/or contacting EH&S should be the first step prior to any move. Additional guidance on the process will be included in the June ORS Newsletter.

1:17pm **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**

IBC #10535	Neuropeptide studies
PI Name	Whim, Matthew
Project Overview	This research studies how the immune system and the adrenal gland communicate with each other. The adrenal gland produces epinephrine, also known as adrenaline, which helps the body respond to stress during the "fight-or-flight" response. While it is well known that stress hormones can affect the immune system, less is understood about how immune cells may influence adrenal gland function. The goal of this project is to better understand how immune cells within the adrenal gland regulate the release of epinephrine and affect hormone-producing cells. This work may provide new insights into how stress and immune responses are connected in health and disease.
NIH Guidelines Section(s)	III-F-1 III-F-8
Risk Assessment & Discussion	Personnel working in the laboratory will use an appropriate BSL-2 Biosafety cabinet and will use personal protective equipment (PPE), including gloves, eye goggles, and lab coats or disposable gowns.
Training	All institutional trainings required are complete for lab staff listed in the registration: • COI in Research • Laboratory Safety • IBC Compliance • BBP High Risk • Shipping Biological Materials
EH&S Assessment	The lab was inspected, and no deficiencies were found.
Occupational Health Representative	N/A

review (if applicable)	
Biosafety Level Assignment	BSL-2 ABSL-1
IRB and IACUC status (if applicable)	Applications reviewed and approved
IBC Vote	The IBC determined that the application met all necessary requirements and was approved through designated member review (DMR). FCR was not required.
IBC #10501	**Fluoride Exposure and Cognitive Outcomes in Children Living in Fluoridated and Non-Fluoridated Communities in Louisiana**
PI Name	Godebo, Tewodros
Project Overview	This study will examine whether long-term exposure to fluoride in drinking water is associated with differences in children's cognitive development. Researchers will compare children living in Louisiana communities with fluoridated and non-fluoridated water supplies while also considering other environmental and social factors that may influence development. The study will include computer-based cognitive testing and collection of urine, fingernail, and small finger-prick blood samples to measure fluoride exposure and related environmental factors. The study is considered minimal risk. All data and samples will be coded and stored securely to protect participant confidentiality. While participants may not receive direct benefit, the findings may help improve understanding of how fluoride exposure relates to child development and could inform future public health guidance.
NIH Guidelines Section(s)	N/A
Risk Assessment & Discussion	Personnel working in the laboratory will use an appropriate chemical fume hood for biological work and will use personal protective equipment (PPE), including gloves, eye goggles, face shield, and lab coats or disposable gowns.
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
IRB status (if applicable)	Application Submitted and Under Review
IBC Vote	The IBC determined that the application met all necessary requirements and was approved through designated member review (DMR). FCR was not required.
IBC #10483	**HJC0152 and Its Derivatives Synergize with Immunotherapy in Breast Cancer**

LSU Health NEW ORLEANS
Institutional Biosafety Committee

PI Name	Shen, Qiang
Project Overview	This study is evaluating a potential new treatment strategy for triple-negative breast cancer, an aggressive form of breast cancer that can be difficult to treat. Researchers are investigating a small molecule called HJC0152, which may help the immune system better recognize and attack cancer cells. Early studies showed that HJC0152 reduced signals tumors use to avoid immune detection and improved the effectiveness of immunotherapy in laboratory and animal models. The project will further test whether combining HJC0152 with immunotherapy can more effectively slow tumor growth compared to immunotherapy alone. The goal is to support the development of improved treatment approaches that strengthen the body's immune response against breast cancer.
NIH Guidelines Section(s)	N/A
Risk Assessment & Discussion	Personnel working in the laboratory will use an appropriate BSL-2 Biosafety cabinet and will use personal protective equipment (PPE), including gloves, and lab coats or disposable gowns.
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 Submitted and Under Review
IBC Vote	The IBC determined that the application met all necessary requirements and was approved through designated member review (DMR). FCR was not required.
IBC #10477	**Prevention and Treatment of Breast Cancer via Targeting PLIN2/PLINs and Reprogramming Lipid Metabolism**
PI Name	Shen, Qiang
Project Overview	This study is focused on developing new ways to prevent breast cancer, particularly aggressive forms such as triple-negative breast cancer that are not well addressed by current prevention therapies. Researchers are investigating a protein called PLIN2, which is involved in how cells store fat and may contribute to cancer development. The project will evaluate a new experimental drug, HJC0152, designed to block PLIN2 activity. Early laboratory and animal studies suggest this compound may reduce abnormal breast tissue changes linked to cancer development without significant side effects. The goal of the research is to better understand the role of PLIN2 in breast cancer and determine whether targeting this pathway could lead to safer and more effective prevention strategies for individuals at high risk.
NIH Guidelines Section(s)	N/A

Risk Assessment & Discussion	Personnel working in the laboratory will use an appropriate chemical fume hood for biological work, BSL-2 Biosafety cabinet and will use personal protective equipment (PPE), including gloves, face shield, surgical mask, and lab coats or disposable gowns.
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-1
IRB and IACUC status (if applicable)	Application Approved Application Submitted and Under Review
IBC Vote	The IBC determined that the application met all necessary requirements and was approved through designated member review (DMR). FCR was not required.
IBC #10532	**Inflammatory, immune and lipid mediators at the onset and progression of Multiple Sclerosis**
PI Name	Zhao, Yuhai
Project Overview	The primary objective is to measure elovanoids (ELVs), docosahexaenoic acid elongation products that counter inflammatory and proteostatic stress and promote neuronal survival, and related specialized pro-resolving lipid mediators (SPMs) in CSF and plasma from patients with multiple sclerosis to determine if there is an association between elovanoid/SPM concentrations and cognitive impairment.
NIH Guidelines Section(s)	N/A
Risk Assessment & Discussion	Personnel working in the laboratory will use an appropriate BSL-2 Biosafety cabinet and will use personal protective equipment (PPE), including gloves, face shield, eye goggles, and lab coats or disposable gowns.
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

LSU Health NEW ORLEANS
Institutional Biosafety Committee

Biosafety Level Assignment	BSL-2
IRB and IACUC status (if applicable)	Application Submitted and Under Review
IBC Vote	The IBC determined that the application met all necessary requirements and was approved through designated member review (DMR). FCR was not required.

- **Amendments and Renewals (April 8, 2026 to May 13, 2026)**

Title	Number	PI Name	Submission Type	Expiration Date	Amendment Description
Alcohol-induced injury to Heart	5414	Paloczi, Janos	Amended	June 06, 2028	Change in Personnel
R61 IBC Humanized nectin mouse model for oHSV therapy	10465	Kaur, Balveen	Amended	April 15, 2031	Change in personnel
Oncolytic HSV therapy for cancer	10410	Kaur, Balveen	Amended	March 31, 2031	Change in personnel
Preclinical Medications Development Screening in Dependent, Affect and Pain Models of Alcoholism	5799	Edwards, Scott	Amended	October 01, 2028	Change in personnel Update in funding information
Role of Neuropeptides in Stress-Induced Escalation of Alcohol Drinking	4457	Gilpin, Nicholas	Amended	August 15, 2027	Update to animal numbers or species Addition of experimental material
Brain reward and stress system interactions in alcohol dependence	4487	Avegno, Elizabeth	Amended	June 20, 2027	Change in personnel Correction or clarification of protocol details
Immune cells in HIV and the tumor microenvironment	8504	Peruzzi, Francesca	Amended	July 11, 2030	Addition of experimental material
Stanley S. Scott (SSS) Cancer Center Biobank	4989	Moaven, Omeed	Amended	January 25, 2028	Change in Personnel Addition of experimental material
Generation and characterization of CAR-expressed immune cells	4497	Miele, Lucio	Amended	August 25, 2027	Change in Personnel Addition of experimental material

Insulin-Like Growth Factor-1 and Atheroscherlosis	6983	Lazartigues, Eric	Amended	June 20, 2030	Change in Personnel
Generation and Functional Characterization of ATPase Enzymes	10309	Buckley, Rebecca	Amended	January 27, 2031	Change in Personnel
Neuroinflammation in CKD	5653	Mohandas, Rajesh	Amended	August 30, 2028	Correction or clarification of protocol details
Cholinergic contribution to hippocampal information processing	7416	Gasparini, Sonia	Amended	June 14, 2029	Change in funding source or sponsor
CARC Analytical Core	4450	Siggins, Robert	Amended	June 15, 2027	Addition of experimental material
Neuropeptide studies	2563	Whim, Matthew	Amended	May 19, 2026	Addition of experimental material
Development of a Rabbit Model for Myeloperoxidase Deficiency	7157	Wang, Guoshun	Amended	April 03, 2029	Addition of new experimental methods/techniques
Targeting ADAM17 maturation in resistant hypertension	2490	Lazartigues, Eric	Amended	November 15, 2026	Change in personnel
Targeting the Renin System for the Treatment of Pain and Opioid Use Disorder	8032	Edwards, Scott	Amended	January 28, 2030	Change in Personnel Addition of experimental material
Molecular mechanisms underlying alcohol consumption and reward	6978	Maiya, Rajani	Amended	June 30, 2030	Addition of experimental material
Propagation of Glioblastoma cells in immunodeficient and syngeneic mouse models	4351	Reiss, Krzysztof	Amended	March 30, 2027	Addition of experimental material
Porcine Tissue Cutting	6687	James, Jeffrey	Close Request		
Preventing alcohol seeking with a nonmuscle myosin II inhibitor under clinical development	9045	Gilpin, Nicholas	Renewed	June 11, 2030	

Lipid mediators in corneal nerve regeneration	5107	Bazan, Haydee	Renewed	May 14, 2028	
LSU Health Biorepository	8373	Welsh, David	Renewed	June 03, 2030	
Brigatinib based degraders as a therapeutic strategy for triple negative breast cancer	8841	Alahari, Suresh	Renewed	May 12, 2030	
Alcohol and rmTBI effects on the blood-brain barrier and dementia	7477	Vita, Sydney	Renewed	June 19, 2029	
The effects of chronic alcohol use and aging on cardiovascular function	8486	Paloczi, Janos	Renewed	April 17, 2030	
Bromelain Enzymatic Debridement for Muscle and Bone Injury and Infection	8015	Rivera, Jessica	Renewed	May 12, 2030	
Dual antiviral drugs to treat infectious diseases	7221	Miele, Lucio	Renewed	May 02, 2029	
Chronic nicotine or vape inhalation increases susceptibility to cardiovascular disease	5219	Gardner, Jason	Renewed	May 17, 2028	
In vitro screening somatostatin receptor 2 cytotoxic agents	5593	Skill, Nicholas	Renewed	May 29, 2029	
Long-Term Effects of Adolescent Alcohol on Pain	8651	Gilpin, Nicholas	Renewed	May 26, 2030	
Calcium channels in health and disease	8497	Pathak, Trayambak	Renewed	June 06, 2030	
Chronic Suppurative Bronchiectasis, Microbiota-Host Interactions, and Precocious Aging	5144	Welsh, David	Renewed/Amended	April 29, 2028	Change in personnel
Ex-Vivo Margin Detection using	7231	Dunham, Michael	Renewed/Amended	April 29, 2029	Change in personnel

Raman Spectroscopy for Pancreatic Tumor Specimens					
Cell-specific Lipid Mediators Necessary for RPE Cell Survival	4494	Bazan, Nicolas	Renewed/Amended	May 12, 2028	Change in personnel
Alternative therapies for muscle and bone injury and infection	5142	Rivera, Jessica	Renewed/Amended	May 14, 2028	Change in personnel
Microbiota-associated Systemic Sclerosis – Interstitial Lung Disease Severity	8385	Krishnan, Amita	Renewed/Amended	April 01, 2030	Change in personnel
Mechanisms of Prohealing Lipid Autocrines/paracrines of Macrophages and Nerves in Diabetic Wound Re-innervation	7167	Hong, Song	Renewed/Amended	April 27, 2029	Change in study location/facilities Correction or clarification of protocol details

- **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.**

1:19pm

IBC #10663	Molecular Targets in Prostate Cancer
PI Name	Koul, Hari
Project Overview	This research focuses on improving understanding of aggressive and metastatic prostate cancer, particularly factors that may contribute to differences in disease outcomes among patient populations. Current clinical tools do not always accurately predict which prostate cancers are likely to spread. The study will investigate the role of a protein called Prostate Derived Ets Transcription Factor (PDEF) in prostate cancer progression and metastasis. Researchers aim to determine whether PDEF could serve as a biomarker to help identify high-risk disease and guide more personalized treatment strategies. The long-term goal is to support improved prediction and management of metastatic prostate cancer.
NIH Guidelines Section(s)	III-D-4-b III-E-1 III-F-1 III-F-3 III-F-8 Appx C-VI
Risk Assessment & Discussion	Personnel working in the laboratory will use appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), including gloves, lab coats or disposable gowns, head covers, 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 laboratory 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 ready for approval
	IBC Vote	The Primary Reviewer made a motion to assign the determination of Modifications Required to Secure Approval (MRSA) • Votes: 8/9 MRSA 1/9 Defer for Information • COI: None reported Following a duly called vote of the committee, Dr. Koul's protocol was conditionally approved, pending submission and approval of the revisions requested by the Primary Reviewer.
	IBC #10632	**Synaptic Transmission in Cerebellum, Cellular Mechanisms Underlying the Long-Term Potentiation of GABA Release**
1:47pm	**PI Name**	Liu, Si-Qiong
	Project Overview	This project studies how brain activity influences communication between nerve cells in the cerebellum, a brain region involved in learning and memory. Researchers are investigating how naturally occurring signaling molecules called endocannabinoids and support cells known as astrocytes contribute to memory formation and fear-related learning. The study will examine how changes in cellular signaling within the cerebellum affect memory development and extinction of fear responses. The goal is to improve understanding of the brain mechanisms involved in learning, memory, and adaptive behavior.
	NIH Guidelines Section(s)	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, eye goggles, and surgical masks. All work involving biohazardous materials will be conducted within a certified Class II biosafety cabinet (BSL-1 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 laboratory was inspected, and no deficiencies were found.
Occupational Health Representative review (if applicable)	N/A
Biosafety Level Assignment	BSL-1 ABSL-2
IACUC status (if applicable)	Applications approved
IBC Vote	The Primary Reviewer made a motion to assign the determination of Deferred for Information • Votes: 9/10* Defer for Information 1/10 MRSA • COI: None reported Following a duly called vote of the committee, Dr. Liu's protocol was Deferred for Information, pending submission of the requested revisions. The revised protocol will be reviewed and must receive approval by the Full Committee. *Committee Member came late

2:06pm **Adjournment**

The IBC Chair moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:06PM. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, June 10th, 2025, via Zoom.