

INSTITUTIONAL BIOSAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING DRAFT MINUTES

The University of Texas at San Antonio
Wednesday September 02, 2026
Microsoft Teams Meeting

Minutes Prepared by: Ashok Chaturvedi

MEMBERS PRESENT (7 needed for quorum)

- ☒ Dr. Jose Lopez-Ribot, Chair, Voting
- ☒ Dr. Janakiram Seshu, Vice-Chair, Voting
- ☒ Dr. JiehJuen Yu, Voting
- ☐ Dr. Karl Klose, Voting
- ☐ Dr. Marcel Perret-Gentil, Voting
- ☒ Dr. Jurgen Engelberth, Voting, Plant Specialist
- ☒ Dr. Astrid Cardona, Voting
- ☐ Mr. Rich Garza, Asst. Director Laboratory Safety & Hazardous Materials Management with vote
- ☒ Ms. Yolanda Acosta, *ex officio* Scientific Alternate with vote
- ☐ Dr. Ana Vallor, Non-Affiliated, Voting
- ☐ Dr. Shannan Hall-Ursone, Non-Affiliated, Voting
- ☐ Mr. Anthony Vallejo, *ex officio*, Director of Laboratory Safety, (Scientific Alternate)
- ☒ Dr. Ashok Chaturvedi, *ex officio*, Biological Safety Manager, (Scientific Alternate)

GUESTS

- ☒ Mrs. Rachel Davis, UTSA Scholarly Resources Librarian
- ☐ Ms. Jolyn Demarest, Occupational Health Program non-voting
- ☐ Dr. Hamid Badali, Voting, (Scientific Alternate)
- ☒ Ms. Yulissa Stevens, Laboratory Safety Specialist non-voting

START: 9:00 AM

ADJOURN: 9:55 AM

7 voting members present

I. Review of the Minutes of the Previous IBC Meeting

Review of the August 5th Minutes – Approved

Committee Decision: 7 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstention

II. Review of New or Renewal Applications

In reviewing each protocol discussed below, the committee gave consideration to the following specific concerns, as appropriate:

- a. Adequacy of containment equipment / procedures / facilities to be implemented
- b. Agent characteristics (e.g., virulence, pathogenicity, environmental stability)
- c. Types of manipulations planned
- d. Source(s) of the inserted DNA sequences (e.g., species)
- e. Nature of the inserted DNA sequences (e.g., structural gene, oncogene)
- f. Host(s) and vector(s) to be used
- g. Whether or not an attempt will be made to obtain expression of a foreign gene, and if so, the protein that will be produced.

IBC# 2101 *Transcriptional and epigenetic bases of psychiatric and neurological disorders*

Project Overview

Microbial Agents, Infectious Agents or Toxins/controlled substances
E. Coli (DH5-alpha), Adeno-Associated Virus, Cocaine, Fentanyl, Morphine
Biosafety Level
BSL-1
Risk Group
RG 1
Section of the NIH Guidelines (if applicable)
Sections III-D-3-e, III-D-4-a, III-D-4-c, III-D-4-c (1)
Principal Investigator
Aritra Bhattacharjee

Committee Decision: 7 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstention

Score: 01 (Approved)

IBC# 41 Pathogenesis of Coxiella burnetii and vaccine-induced immunity against Q fever.

Project Overview

Microbial Agents, Infectious Agents or Toxins
5-alpha Competent E. Coli
Biosafety Level
BSL-3
Risk Group
RG 3
Section of the NIH Guidelines (if applicable)
III-D-3-b
Principal Investigator
Guoquan Zhang

Score: 02

Committee Decision: 7 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstention

1. *Orientia tsutsugamushi* is a new strain included in the protocol amendment, and Dr. Zhang mentioned it will be transferred from Naval Medical Research Command to his lab; does he require a CDC Import Permit before importing it. (NO)
2. You have not selected the use of recombinant or synthetic nucleic acids (section D); however, you will be developing mariner-based Himar Tn genetic transformation systems for mutagenesis. (III-D-3-b)

IBC# 2097 Investigations into embryonic germ cell development.

Project Overview

Microbial Agents, Infectious Agents or Toxins
5-alpha Competent E. Coli
Biosafety Level
BSL-1
Risk Group
RG 1
Section of the NIH Guidelines (if applicable)
III-D-4-a; III-E-3-a
Principal Investigator
Lacy Barton

Score:02

Committee Decision: 7 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstention

1. Title: **your project title** instead of "Dr."
2. Location of project (BLDG/ROOM#): **Mention BSB** and then room #
3. Section D, part 1, **please mention the specific subsection** of the NIH guidelines instead of RG1
4. Section F, part 4, you must complete this part
5. Please include **IBC# 2097** instead of 9012022

III. Review of Amendments

In reviewing each protocol discussed below, the committee gave consideration to the following specific concerns, as appropriate:

- a. Adequacy of containment equipment / procedures / facilities to be implemented
- b. Agent characteristics (e.g., virulence, pathogenicity, environmental stability)
- c. Types of manipulations planned
- d. Source(s) of the inserted DNA sequences (e.g., species)
- e. Nature of the inserted DNA sequences (e.g., structural gene, oncogene)
- f. Host(s) and vector(s) to be used
- g. Whether or not an attempt will be made to obtain expression of a foreign gene, and if so, the protein that will be produced.

IBC# 2104

Project Overview

S/N	Lab Name	PI	Amendments	Reviewer comments	Decision
1	Hsu Lab	Chia Hsu	IBC# 2104 Salivary Cell-Free Mitochondrial DNA as a Biomarker of Acute Physiological and Psychological Stress	BSL2 should be mentioned instead of BSL1 since human body fluid is included in the study. IRB training needed.	

Score 2

Committee Decision: 0 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstention

IV. Administrative Approvals

S/N	Lab Name	Title	Reviewer comments	Decision
1	Bhattacharjee Lab	IBC#2101 Transcriptional and epigenetic bases of psychiatric and neurological disorders	N/A	IBC Chair approved 09/02/2026

V. Expired / Closed Protocols

None at this time.

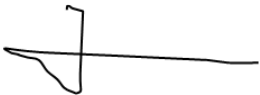
VI. New Business

A. Update from BSO.

1. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

VII. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 a.m. Next meeting will take place on Wednesday, October 7, 2026, at 9:00 am via Teams.



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Jose Lopez-Ribot
IBC Chair