

# Institutional Biosafety Committee Meeting Minutes

July 10, 2025

**Location:** Zoom Meeting

**Time:** 3:01 PM

## IBC Members present

Sandra Arango-Caro	Human Subjects Expert
Sona Pandey	IBC Chair
Ru Zhang	Plant/Lab Technical Expert
Mindy Darnell	Biological Safety Officer
Kevin Reilly	Plant Containment Expert
Jim Cox	EHS Expert
Ross Johnson	Regulatory Expert
Bing Yang	Pathogen Expert
Katie Siech	Biosafety Specialist
Beth Elam Michaud	Local Community Member
Brooke Schmitt	IBC Administrator, Non-Voting

## IBC Members absent

Rosalee Knipp	Local Community Member
Veena Veena	Recombinant and Synthetic Nucleic Acids Expert

## I. Old Business

### A. Approval of Minutes – June 6th

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 #: IBC25-0015
  - Ru Zhang, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – New) IBC Protocol #: IBC25-0016
  - Nigel Taylor, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – New) IBC Protocol #: IBC25-0026
  - Nigel Taylor, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – New) IBC Protocol #: IBC25-0027
  - Nigel Taylor, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – New) IBC Protocol #: IBC25-0029

- Armando Bravo, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol - Amendment) IBC Protocol #: IBC24-0055
- 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:
  - Kevin Cox, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – New) IBC Protocol #: IBC25-0019
  - Chris Topp, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – New) IBC Protocol #: IBC25-0023
  - Chris Topp, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – New) IBC Protocol #: IBC25-0034
- 3. Annual Reviews that were reviewed and approved by the BSO or designee:
  - Keith Slotkin, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – Annual Review) IBC Protocol #: IBC21-0060
- 4. Protocols Closed (at the request of the PI):
  - None

**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:
  - None

## II. New Business

**A. New Protocols**

<b>Principle Investigator</b>	Andrea Eveland
<b>Protocol #</b>	IBC25-0030
<b>Title</b>	Dissecting a core mechanism controlling spikelet meristem fate and inflorescence architecture in panicoid cereals
<b>Protocol Description</b>	The goal of this proposal is to dissect a mechanism for acid control in development of grass inflorescences. We aim to understand the hormone signaling and gene regulatory pathways involved.
<b>Types of Organisms</b>	Plant
<b>NIH Guidelines Agents</b>	rsNA
<b>NIH Guidelines Section</b>	III-3-E
<b>Containment Level</b>	BSL-1

<b>IBC Review</b>	The committee reviewed and discussed containment levels, personnel training, facilities involved, procedures and practices, agent characteristics (if applicable), and rsNA details (if applicable).
<b>IBC comments (to be addressed by PI)</b>	The IBC requested additional details related to the rsNA work. The PI is asked to specify the transgenes and proteins that will be produced, as well as provide a biosafety level for plants.
<b>IBC Decision</b>	The IBC voted to contingently approve the protocol (10-yes 0-no/0-abstention).

<b>Principle Investigator</b>	Keith Slotkin
<b>Protocol #</b>	IBC25-0043
<b>Title</b>	Intragenic genome engineering for the next generation of improved plants
<b>Protocol Description</b>	Perform proof-of-concept genome engineering in plants. With this proposal and set of experiments, we aim to control the transposable element within the genome.
<b>Types of Organisms</b>	Plant
<b>NIH Guidelines Agents</b>	rsNA
<b>NIH Guidelines Section</b>	III-3-E
<b>Containment Level</b>	BSL-1
<b>IBC Review</b>	The committee reviewed and discussed containment levels, personnel training, facilities involved, procedures and practices, agent characteristics (if applicable), and rsNA details (if applicable).
<b>IBC comments (to be addressed by PI)</b>	The PI is asked to provide a biosafety level for plants and to follow up with Missouri Department of Agriculture (for movement of GM rice).
<b>IBC Decision</b>	The IBC voted to contingently approve the protocol (10-yes 0-no/0-abstention).

<b>Principle Investigator</b>	Ru Zhang
<b>Protocol #</b>	IBC25-0038
<b>Title</b>	SENTINEL: SENSing Threats In Natural Environments using Ligand-receptor modules

<b>Protocol Description</b>	The SENTINEL: SENSing Threats In Natural Environments using Ligand-receptor modules program aims to develop deployable plant systems to detect and report chemical and biological agents that pose threats to human health and agricultural production.
<b>Types of Manipulation</b>	Plant
<b>Agents</b>	rsNA
<b>Containment level</b>	BSL-1
<b>Applicable section of NIH Guidelines</b>	III-E-3
<b>IBC Review</b>	The committee reviewed and discussed containment levels, personnel training, facilities involved, procedures and practices, agent characteristics (if applicable), and rsNA details (if applicable).
<b>IBC comments (to be addressed by PI)</b>	None
<b>IBC Decision</b>	The IBC voted to approve the protocol (10-yes 0-no/0-abstention).

#### **B. Amendments & Continuing Reviews of Approved Protocols:**

<b>Principle Investigator</b>	Kirk Czymmek
<b>Protocol #</b>	IBC23-0013-03
<b>Title</b>	Discovery, design and development of antimicrobial peptides
<b>Protocol Description</b>	This IBC protocol is being updated to add an additional fungal plant pathogen. This pathogen will only be used in the lab space.
<b>Types of organisms</b>	Plant, Fungal Pathogens
<b>NIH Guidelines Agents</b>	No changes
<b>NIH Guidelines Section</b>	N/A
<b>Containment Level</b>	BSL-1
<b>IBC Review</b>	The committee reviewed and discussed containment levels, personnel training, facilities involved, procedures and practices, agent characteristics (if applicable), and rsNA details (if applicable).
<b>IBC comments (to be addressed by PI)</b>	The IBC requested clarification on whether this pathogen will be used in PGF areas and why it is labeled as BSL-2.

	The PI is asked to clean up the amendment/IBC and clearly state where this pathogen work will take place. They are also asked to provide their sources as to why this pathogen is labeled BSL-2.
<b>IBC Decision</b>	The IBC voted to table the protocol (10-yes 0-no/0-abstention).

### C. Other Business:

1. None

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:26 PM.

Reviewed and approved by:

Sona Pandey

Sona Pandey (Aug 25, 2025 16:46:41 CDT)

Sona Pandey, Ph.D.

Member, Principal Investigator

Institutional Biosafety Committee Chair

Mindy Darnell

Mindy Darnell (Aug 25, 2025 16:47:38 CDT)

Mindy Darnell, M.S.

Director, Environmental Health & Safety and Biosafety

Biological Safety Officer