



Institutional Biosafety Committee Meeting Minutes

February 9, 2026

Location: Zoom Meeting

Time: 3:03 PM

IBC Members present

Sandra Arango-Caro	Human Subjects Expert
Bing Yang	Recombinant and Synthetic Nucleic Acids and Pathogen Expert
Mindy Darnell	Biological Safety Officer
Jim Cox	EHS Expert
Ross Johnson	Recombinant and Synthetic Nucleic Acids Expert
Rosalee Knipp	IBC Community Member
Kevin Reilly	Plant Containment Expert
Sona Pandey	IBC Chair
Brooke Schmitt	IBC Administrator, Non-Voting

IBC Members absent

Wendy Olivas	IBC Community Member (local)
Beth Elam Michaud	IBC Community Member (local)
Katie Siech	Biosafety Specialist
Ru Zhang	Plant/Lab Technical Expert

I. Old Business

A. Approval of Minutes – January 8th

1. 8-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:
 - None



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:
 - None
3. Annual Reviews that were reviewed and approved by the BSO or designee:
 - Nadia Shakoor, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – Annual Review) IBC Protocol #: IBC23-0029
 - Kirk Czymmek, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – Annual Review) IBC Protocol #: IBC25-0020
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:
 - Dilip Shah, Ph.D., (IBC protocol – New) IBC Protocol #: IBC25-0065

II. New Business

A. New Protocols

Principal Investigator	Andrea Eveland
Protocol #	IBC25-0060
Title	Linking molecular, biochemical and phenotypic responses to the environment towards sustainable, stress resilient bioenergy sorghum
Protocol Description	Planting sorghum at the Danforth Center field site and in Arizona. The data collected will be used to understand how sorghum responds to drought stress.
Types of Organisms	Plant
NIH Guidelines Agents	rsNA



NIH Guidelines Section	III-E-2
Containment Level	BSL-1
IBC Review	The committee reviewed and discussed containment levels, personnel training, facilities involved, procedures and practices, agent characteristics (if applicable), and rsNA details (if applicable).
IBC comments (to be addressed by PI)	The IBC requested that the P.I. make it clear that all biological materials will be going in our biowaste stream not the standard waste stream. 2 lab members need to take farm safety training.
IBC Decision	The IBC voted to contingently approve the protocol (8-yes 0-no/0-abstention).

Principal Investigator	Ru Zhang
Protocol #	IBC25-0071
Title	Dissecting the Regulatory Mechanisms of C4 Photosynthesis and Carbon Partitioning in Sorghum
Protocol Description	Field grown sorghum plants will be investigated under different light intensities and developmental stages.
Types of Organisms	Plant
NIH Guidelines Agents	rsNA
NIH Guidelines Section	III-E-2
Containment Level	BSL-1
IBC Review	The committee reviewed and discussed containment levels, personnel training, facilities involved, procedures and practices, agent characteristics (if applicable), and rsNA details (if applicable).
IBC comments (to be addressed by PI)	The P.I. is asked to make it clear what work will be done in the field and what work will be done in a greenhouse. They are asked to submit an amendment once all transgenes are known.

IBC Decision	The IBC voted to contingently approve the protocol and would like to review again at the next meeting. (8-yes 0-no/0-abstention).
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B. Amendments & Continuing Reviews of Approved Protocols:

None

C. Other Business:

None

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:23 PM.

Reviewed and approved by:


Sona Pandey (Mar 9, 2020 15:40:35 CDT)

Sona Pandey, Ph.D.
Member, Principal Investigator
Institutional Biosafety Committee Chair


Mindy Darnell (Mar 9, 2020 15:35:57 CDT)

Mindy Darnell, M.S.
Director, Environmental Health & Safety and Biosafety
Biological Safety Officer