

Institutional Biosafety Committee Meeting Minutes

June 4, 2026

Location: Zoom Meeting

Time: 3:00 PM

IBC Members present

Bing Yang	Recombinant and Synthetic Nucleic Acids and Pathogen Expert
Rosalee Knipp	IBC Community Member
Jim Cox	EHS Expert
Ross Johnson	Recombinant and Synthetic Nucleic Acids Expert
Katie Siech	Biosafety Specialist
Kevin Reilly	Plant Containment Expert
Wendy Olivas	IBC Community Member (local)
Brooke Schmitt	IBC Administrator, Non-Voting

IBC Members absent

Beth Elam Michaud	IBC Community Member (local)
Sona Pandey	IBC Chair
Mindy Darnell	Biological Safety Officer
Ru Zhang	Plant/Lab Technical Expert

I. Old Business

A. Approval of Minutes – May 7th

1. 7-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:
 - Ivan Baxter, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – New) IBC Protocol #: IBC26-0009
 - Jim Carrington, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – New) IBC Protocol #: IBC26-0010

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:
 - Dmitri Nusinow, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – New) IBC Protocol #: IBC26-0034
 - Cody Bagnall, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – New) IBC Protocol #: IBC26-0037
 - Cody Bagnall, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – New) IBC Protocol #: IBC26-0038
 - Malia Gehan, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – New) IBC Protocol #: IBC26-0039
 - Doug Allen, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – New) IBC Protocol #: IBC26-0040
 - Armando Bravo, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – Amendment) IBC Protocol #: IBC25-0056
3. Annual Reviews that were reviewed and approved by the BSO or designee:
 - Jim Carrington, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – Annual Review) IBC Protocol #: IBC22-0004
 - Keith Slotkin, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – Annual Review) IBC Protocol #: IBC25-0043
4. Protocols Closed (at the request of the PI):
 - Nigel Taylor, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – Closure) IBC Protocol #: IBC25-0028

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:
 - Andrea Eveland, Ph.D., (IBC Amendment – New) IBC Protocol #: IBC25-0030

II. New Business

A. New Protocols

Principal Investigator	Mao Li
Protocol #	IBC26-0012
Title	Development of Integrative and Big-data Driven Technologies for Soybean Product Development



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Protocol Description	Developing data mining tools for soybean product development.
Types of Organisms	Plant
NIH Guidelines Agents	rsNA
NIH Guidelines Section	III-E-2
Containment Level	BSL-1, BL1-P
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 take the scientific safety refresher since she is overseeing a researcher working with transgenic plants.
IBC Decision	The IBC voted to contingently approve the protocol and would like to review again at the next meeting. (7=yes 0=no/0-abstention).

Principal Investigator	Dmitri Nusinow
Protocol #	IBC26-0019
Title	Interaction and Reciprocal Regulation Between Circadian Clock and Lipid Metabolism
Protocol Description	The goal is to clarify the molecular mechanism by which the circadian clock and lipid metabolism are interconnected using Arabidopsis.
Types of Organisms	Plant
NIH Guidelines Agents	rsNA
NIH Guidelines Section	III-E-2
Containment Level	BSL-1, BL1-P
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 correct a typo and to select that the E. coli used is the K-12 strand.



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IBC Decision	The IBC voted to contingently approve the protocol. (7-yes 0-no/0-abstention).
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Principal Investigator	Dmitri Nusinow
Protocol #	IBC26-0020
Title	Interrogating Pennycress Natural and Induced Variation to Improve Abiotic Stress Tolerance and Oilseed Bioenergy Crop Resilience
Protocol Description	The goal is to deliver speed breeding methods to facilitate the introduction of allelic variants into commercial pennycress varieties.
Types of Organisms	Plant
NIH Guidelines Agents	rsNA
NIH Guidelines Section	III-E-2
Containment Level	BSL-1, BL1-P
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 correct a typo in the protocol.
IBC Decision	The IBC voted to approve the protocol. (7-yes 0-no/0-abstention).

Principal Investigator	Keith Slotkin
Protocol #	IBC26-0031
Title	PoC-Slotkin-Increasing the Size of Targeted Insertions
Protocol Description	Trying to increase the cargo size of TATSI/TAHITI targeted insertions.
Types of Organisms	Plant
NIH Guidelines Agents	rsNA
NIH Guidelines Section	III-E-2



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Containment Level	BSL-1, BL1-P
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 correct a typo in the protocol.
IBC Decision	The IBC voted to approve the protocol. (7-yes 0-no/0-abstention).

Principal Investigator	Getu Duguma
Protocol #	IBC26-0011
Title	Next Gen Cowpea
Protocol Description	Development and characterization of transgenic cowpea lines expressing one or more insecticidal proteins.
Types of Organisms	Plant
NIH Guidelines Agents	rsNA
NIH Guidelines Section	III-E-2
Containment Level	BSL-1, BL1-P
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 correct a typo in the protocol and to check mark the researchers that will be working at the field research site.
IBC Decision	The IBC voted to contingently approve the protocol. (7-yes 0-no/0-abstention).

B. Amendments & Continuing Reviews of Approved Protocols:

None





C. Other Business:

1. Getu and Dilip will hopefully be joining our next IBC meeting as new IBC members. Ross will then rotate off the committee.
2. Brooke will be gone on July 2nd so the July IBC meeting will be moved to July 9th.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:18 PM.

Reviewed and approved by:

Sona Pandey
Sona Pandey (Jun 22, 2026 14:35:17 CDT)

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

Mindy Darnell

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