



Institutional Biosafety Committee Meeting Minutes

March 5, 2026

Location: Zoom Meeting

Time: 3:00 PM

IBC Members present

Sandra Arango-Caro	Human Subjects Expert
Ru Zhang	Plant/Lab Technical Expert
Mindy Darnell	Biological Safety Officer
Jim Cox	EHS Expert
Ross Johnson	Recombinant and Synthetic Nucleic Acids Expert
Katie Siech	Biosafety Specialist
Kevin Reilly	Plant Containment Expert
Beth Elam Michaud	IBC Community Member (local)
Brooke Schmitt	IBC Administrator, Non-Voting

IBC Members absent

Wendy Olivas	IBC Community Member (local)
Sona Pandey	IBC Chair
Rosalee Knipp	IBC Community Member
Bing Yang	Recombinant and Synthetic Nucleic Acids and Pathogen Expert

I. Old Business

A. Approval of Minutes – February 5th

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:
 - Andrea Eveland, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – New) IBC Protocol #: IBC25-0060



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:
 - Dilip Shah, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – Annual Review) IBC Protocol #: IBC24-0023
 - Russell Williams, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – Annual Review) IBC Protocol #: IBC24-0008
 - Dmitri Nusinow, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – Annual Review) IBC Protocol #: IBC25-0001
 - Doug Allen, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – Annual Review) IBC Protocol #: IBC24-0005
 - Ivan Baxter, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – Annual Review) IBC Protocol #: IBC21-0022
 - Richard Slotkin, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – Annual Review) IBC Protocol #: IBC25-0010
4. Protocols Closed (at the request of the PI):
 - Ivan Baxter, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – Closure) IBC Protocol #: IBC21-0022
 - Rebecca Bart, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – Closure) IBC Protocol #: IBC24-0013
 - Katie Murphy, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – Closure) IBC Protocol #: IBC24-0007
 - Dilip Shah, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – Closure) IBC Protocol #: IBC21-0080
 - Dilip Shah, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – Closure) IBC Protocol #: IBC24-0023

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:
 - Ru Zhang, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – New) IBC Protocol #: IBC25-0071

II. New Business

A. New Protocols





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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 are being investigated for photosynthesis regulation and carbon partitioning 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 IBC had no comments.
IBC Decision	The IBC voted to approve the protocol. (8-yes 0-no/0-abstention).

Principal Investigator	Dilip Shah
Protocol #	IBC26-0005
Title	Novel Antifungal Symbiotic NCR Peptides: Modes of Action and Control of Fungal Pathogens
Protocol Description	Determine in depth modes of action of disulfide variants and to determine antifungal activity of 2 peptides from chickpea.
Types of Organisms	Plant, Fungi
NIH Guidelines Agents	rsNA
NIH Guidelines Section	III-E-2



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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 if they are storing freezer samples and to make that known in the protocol.
IBC Decision	The IBC voted to contingently approve the protocol. (8-yes 0-no/0-abstention).

B. Amendments & Continuing Reviews of Approved Protocols:

Principal Investigator	Kirk Czymmek
Protocol #	IBC23-0013
Title	Discovery, design and development of antimicrobial peptides
Protocol Description	Adding another plant fungus for soybean work. Testing in-vitro antifungal activity.
Types of Organisms	Plant, Fungi
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 clarify where the fungal pathogen work is taken place.
IBC Decision	The IBC voted to contingently approve the protocol. (8-yes 0-no/0-abstention).



C. Other Business:

None

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:12 PM.

Reviewed and approved by:

Sona Pandey
Sona Pandey (Mar 10, 2026 13:19:01 CDT)

Sona Pandey, Ph.D.

Member, Principal Investigator

Institutional Biosafety Committee Chair

Mindy Darnell
Mindy Darnell (Mar 10, 2026 13:17:11 CDT)

Mindy Darnell, M.S.

Director, Environmental Health & Safety and Biosafety

Biological Safety Officer

