



Institutional Biosafety Committee Meeting Minutes

May 7, 2026

Location: Zoom Meeting

Time: 3:06 PM

IBC Members present

Ru Zhang	Plant/Lab Technical Expert
Mindy Darnell	Biological Safety Officer
Jim Cox	EHS Expert
Katie Siech	Biosafety Specialist
Beth Elam Michaud	IBC Community Member (local)
Rosalee Knipp	IBC Community Member
Brooke Schmitt	IBC Administrator, Non- Voting

IBC Members absent

Wendy Olivas	IBC Community Member (local)
Sona Pandey	IBC Chair
Bing Yang	Recombinant and Synthetic Nucleic Acids and Pathogen Expert
Kevin Reilly	Plant Containment Expert
Ross Johnson	Recombinant and Synthetic Nucleic Acids Expert

I. Old Business

A. Approval of Minutes – March 5th

1. 6-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:
 - Dilip Shah, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – New) IBC Protocol #: IBC26-0005
 - Kirk Czymmek, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – Amendment) IBC Protocol#: IBC23-0013



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:
 - Allison Miller, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – New) IBC Protocol #: IBC26-0023
 - Cody Bagnall, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – New) IBC Protocol #: IBC26-0036
 - Kirk Czymmek, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – New) IBC Protocol #: IBC26-0035
 - Allison Miller, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – Amendment) IBC Protocol #: IBC21-0049
3. Annual Reviews that were reviewed and approved by the BSO or designee:
 - Bala Venkata, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – Annual Review) IBC Protocol #: IBC24-0029
 - Allison Miller, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – Annual Review) IBC Protocol #: IBC25-0017
 - Allison Miller, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – Annual Review) IBC Protocol #: IBC24-0064
 - Allison Miller, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – Annual Review) IBC Protocol #: IBC22-0030
 - Armando Bravo, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – Annual Review) IBC Protocol #: IBC24-0055
 - Andrea Eveland, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – Annual Review) IBC Protocol #: IBC24-0045
 - Allison Miller, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – Annual Review) IBC Protocol #: IBC21-0049
 - Keith Slotkin, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – Annual Review) IBC Protocol #: IBC23-0015
 - Bala Venkata, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – Annual Review) IBC Protocol #: IBC21-0070
 - Dmitri Nusinow, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – Annual Review) IBC Protocol #: IBC21-0063
 - Doug Allen, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – Annual Review) IBC Protocol #: IBC22-0071
 - Dmitri Nusinow, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – Annual Review) IBC Protocol #: IBC22-0013
 - Tessa Burch-Smith, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – Annual Review) IBC Protocol #: IBC24-0061
 - Sam Wang, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – Annual Review) IBC Protocol #: IBC22-0059



- Kirk Czymmek, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – Annual Review) IBC Protocol #: IBC22-0045
- Kirk Czymmek, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – Annual Review) IBC Protocol #: IBC23-0013
- Keith Slotkin, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – Annual Review) IBC Protocol #: IBC24-0015
- Tessa Burch-Smith, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – Annual Review) IBC Protocol #: IBC25-0021
- Sam Wang, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – Annual Review) IBC Protocol #: IBC22-0058
- Sam Wang, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – Annual Review) IBC Protocol #: IBC22-0056

4. Protocols Closed (at the request of the PI):

- Keith Slotkin, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – Closure) IBC Protocol #: IBC21-0060
- Kevin Cox, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – Closure) IBC Protocol #: IBC25-0060
- Rebecca Bart, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – Closure) IBC Protocol #: IBC22-0031
- Ruth Kaggwa, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – Closure) IBC Protocol #: IBC26-0003
- Chris Topp, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – Closure) IBC Protocol #: IBC23-0025
- Allison Miller, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – Closure) IBC Protocol #: IBC24-0066
- Tessa Burch-Smith, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – Closure) IBC Protocol #: IBC22-0014
- Malia Gehan, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – Closure) IBC Protocol #: IBC23-0034
- Doug Allen, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – Closure) IBC Protocol #: IBC25-0011
- Chris Topp, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – Closure) IBC Protocol #: IBC22-0019
- Chris Topp, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – Closure) IBC Protocol #: IBC24-0025
- Ru Zhang, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – Closure) IBC Protocol #: IBC24-0016
- Rebecca Bart, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – Closure) IBC Protocol #: IBC23-0014
- Chris Topp, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – Closure) IBC Protocol #: IBC23-0027
- Chris Topp, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – Closure) IBC Protocol #: IBC20-0011
- Ru Zhang, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – Closure) IBC Protocol #: IBC22-0062
- Nigel Taylor, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – Closure) IBC Protocol #: IBC24-0038
- Toby Kellogg, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – Closure) IBC Protocol #: IBC20-0006
- Chris Topp, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – Closure) IBC Protocol #: IBC24-0049
- Chris Topp, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – Closure) IBC Protocol #: IBC21-0007
- Don Mackenzie, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – Closure) IBC Protocol #: IBC23-0002
- Veena Veena, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – Closure) IBC Protocol #: IBC21-0077

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

Principal Investigator	Giles Oldroyd
Protocol #	IBC26-0007
Title	Understanding the Evolution of Biological Nitrogen Fixation
Protocol Description	Biological nitrogen fixation through root nodule symbiosis is confined to a clade of 4 angiosperm families. In the nodules, the bacteria fix atmospheric nitrogen into ammonia. The lab will be working with these families to understand the evolution behind the nitrogen fixing trait.
Types of Organisms	Plant, Bacteria
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 IBC had no comments.
IBC Decision	The IBC voted to approve the protocol. (6-yes 0-no/0-abstention).

Principal Investigator	Ivan Baxter
Protocol #	IBC26-0009
Title	Using Systems Approaches to Improve Photosynthesis and Water Use Efficiency in Sorghum
Protocol Description	Investigating how to make sorghum and setaria more water use efficient using a wide variety of techniques.
Types of Organisms	Plant, Bacteria
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 IBC would like for the P.I. to clarify where they will be using NMU solutions. One of the lab members needs to complete safety refresher training. The P.I. needs to add a sentence to the risks associated with accidental exposure box even if there are no known risks.
IBC Decision	The IBC voted to contingently approve the protocol. (6-yes 0-no/0-abstention).

Principal Investigator	Jim Carrington
Protocol #	IBC26-0010
Title	Mechanistic Roles of DNA Polymerase δ Subunit 1 in Resistance to DNA Geminiviruses
Protocol Description	Working to characterize a gene recently discovered to confer resistance to geminivirus pathogens.
Types of Organisms	Plant, Virus, Bacteria



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NIH Guidelines Agents	rsNA
NIH Guidelines Section	III-E-2
Containment Level	BSL-1, BLP-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 would like for the P.I. to clarify which viruses are currently being used and if they are using the gene gun. One of the lab members needs to complete safety refresher training. The P.I. needs to add a sentence to the risks associated with accidental exposure box even if there are no known risks.
IBC Decision	The IBC voted to contingently approve the protocol. (6-yes 0-no/0-abstention).

Principal Investigator	Mao Li
Protocol #	IBC26-0012
Title	Development of Integrative and Big-Data Driven Technologies for Soybean Product Development
Protocol Description	Working with USDA/An lab to develop 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 IBC would like for the P.I. to clarify where the research activities are being done – in the An/USDA lab or the Li lab. They also would



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	like clarification on where the soybean is being transformed – Wisconsin or at the Danforth Center.
IBC Decision	The IBC voted to table the protocol. (6-yes 0-no/0-abstention).

Principal Investigator	Keith Slotkin
Protocol #	IBC26-0030
Title	Corn Transformation STTR Project with Spearhead Bio and Solis Agrosiences
Protocol Description	The lab is working to try to prove that TATSI/TAHITI gene editing technology works in corn plants.
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 IBC had no comments.
IBC Decision	The IBC voted to approve the protocol. (6-yes 0-no/0-abstention).

B. Amendments & Continuing Reviews of Approved Protocols:

Principal Investigator	Andrea Eveland
Protocol #	IBC25-0030
Title	Dissecting a Core Mechanism Controlling Spikelet Meristem Fate and Inflorescence Architecture in Panicoid Cereals
Protocol Description	Adding a protocol to explore alternative methods for generating transgenic setaria plants.
Types of Organisms	Plant, Fungi
NIH Guidelines Agents	rsNA
NIH Guidelines Section	III-E-2
Containment Level	BSL-1, BLP-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 would like clarification on where floral dipping will occur, how plants will be transported to the greenhouse, and where threshing will occur.
IBC Decision	The IBC voted to contingently approve the protocol. (6-yes 0-no/0-abstention).

C. Other Business:

None

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:32 PM.



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Reviewed and approved by:

Sona Pandey

Sona Pandey (Jun 22, 2026 14:52:36 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



IBC Meeting Minutes_May 2026

Final Audit Report

2026-06-22

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