

Institutional Biosafety Committee Meeting Minutes

July 9, 2026

Location: Zoom Meeting

Time: 3:03 PM

IBC Members present

Bing Yang	Recombinant and Synthetic Nucleic Acids and Pathogen Expert
Sona Pandey	IBC Chair
Ru Zhang	Plant/Lab Technical Expert
Mindy Darnell	Biological Safety Officer
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)
Rosalee Knipp	IBC Community Member
Katie Siech	Biosafety Specialist
Ross Johnson	Recombinant and Synthetic Nucleic Acids Expert
Jim Cox	EHS Expert

I. Old Business

A. Approval of Minutes – June 4th

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:
 - Mao Li, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – New) IBC Protocol #: IBC26-0012
 - Andrea Eveland, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – Amendment) IBC Protocol #: IBC25-0030
 - Getu Duguma, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – New) IBC Protocol #: IBC26-0011

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:
 - Sona Pandey, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – New) IBC Protocol #: IBC26-0041
 - Nadia Shakoor, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – New) IBC Protocol #: IBC26-0046
 - Nadia Shakoor, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – New) IBC Protocol #: IBC26-0047
 - Ivan Baxter, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – New) IBC Protocol #: IBC26-0053
 - Nigel Taylor, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – Amendment) IBC Protocol #: IBC25-0006
 - Ru Zhang, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – Amendment) IBC Protocol #: IBC25-0015
 - Ru Zhang, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – Amendment) IBC Protocol #: IBC25-0016
3. Annual Reviews that were reviewed and approved by the BSO or designee:
 - Sona Pandey, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – Annual Review) IBC Protocol #: IBC25-0014
 - Nigel Taylor, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – Annual Review) IBC Protocol #: IBC25-0006
 - Andrea Eveland, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – Annual Review) IBC Protocol #: IBC25-0030
 - Andrea Eveland, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – Annual Review) IBC Protocol #: IBC23-0011
 - Nigel Taylor, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – Annual Review) IBC Protocol #: IBC25-0007
 - Dilip Shah, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – Annual Review) IBC Protocol #: IBC22-0054
 - Doug Allen, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – Annual Review) IBC Protocol #: IBC23-0033
 - Kevin Cox, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – Annual Review) IBC Protocol #: IBC25-0019
 - Ru Zhang, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – Annual Review) IBC Protocol #: IBC25-0016
4. Protocols Closed (at the request of the PI):
 - Ivan Baxter, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – Closure) IBC Protocol #: IBC21-0067
 - Charles An, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – Closure) IBC Protocol #: IBC21-0065
 - Sona Pandey, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – Closure) IBC Protocol #: IBC21-0034
 - Kevin Cox, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – Closure) IBC Protocol #: IBC25-0019
 - Sona Pandey, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – Closure) IBC Protocol #: IBC21-0038

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	Dmitri Nusinow
Protocol #	IBC26-0016
Title	ERAC-Combinatorial Engineering Spatial Glucosinolate Product
Protocol Description	Gene editing of glucosinolate production and transport pathways in Pennycress.
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)	There were no comments from the IBC.
IBC Decision	The IBC voted to approve the protocol. (6-yes 0-no/0-abstention).



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PLANT SCIENCE CENTER

Principal Investigator	Nadia Shakoor
Protocol #	IBC26-0048
Title	ERAC-Nutritional validation of a lodging resistant, genome
Protocol Description	Twelve-month project evaluating nutritional validation of a lodging resistant genome edited fonio line.
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 remove a sentence “No foreign DNA was introduced.” to clarify that transgenic plants were created by another lab at the Danforth Center. They are also asked to explain why this experiment would be low risk if GMOs were released to the environment.
IBC Decision	The IBC voted to contingently approve the protocol. (6-yes 0-no/0-abstention).

Principal Investigator	Sona Pandey
Protocol #	IBC26-0042
Title	Elucidating the effects of G β overexpression in development and stress responses of <i>Setaria viridis</i> , <i>Zea mays</i> , and <i>Sorghum bicolor</i> .
Protocol Description	The plants overexpressing the G β gene will be characterized for different developmental, physiological, stress response, and yield traits.
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 clarify if they are using E. coli for this work and to explain why this experiment would be low risk if GMOs were released to the environment.
IBC Decision	The IBC did not vote on this protocol since we no longer had a quorum. This protocol will move to the next meeting for official voting. (0=yes 0=no/5-abstention).

B. Amendments & Continuing Reviews of Approved Protocols:

None

C. Other Business:

None

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:17 PM.

Reviewed and approved by:

Sona Pandey
Sona Pandey (Jul 24, 2026 11:29:56 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_July 2026

Final Audit Report

2026-07-24

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