



Institutional Biosafety Committee Meeting Minutes

September 1, 2026

Location: Zoom Meeting

Time: 1:00 PM

IBC Members present

Sona Pandey	IBC Chair
Ru Zhang	Plant/Lab Technical Expert
Mindy Darnell	Biological Safety Officer
Rosalee Knipp	IBC Community Member
Katie Siech	Biosafety Specialist
Ross Johnson	Recombinant and Synthetic Nucleic Acids Expert
Jim Cox	EHS Expert
Bing Yang	Recombinant and Synthetic Nucleic Acids and Pathogen Expert
Kevin Reilly	Plant Containment Expert
Beth Elam Michaud	IBC Community Member (local)
Wendy Olivas	IBC Community Member (local)
Brooke Schmitt	IBC Administrator, Non-Voting

IBC Members absent

None

I. Old Business

A. Approval of Minutes – August 13th

1. 11-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:
 - Charles An, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – New) IBC Protocol #: IBC26-0049
 - Ashley Snouffer, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – New) IBC Protocol #: IBC26-0055
 - Doug Allen, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – Amendment) IBC Protocol #: IBC22-0041
 - Giles Oldroyd, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – New) IBC Protocol #: IBC26-0066
 - Nigel Taylor, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – New) IBC Protocol #: IBC24-0058
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:
 - Armando Bravo, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – New) IBC Protocol #: IBC26-0026
 - Keith Slotkin, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – Amendment) IBC Protocol #: IBC25-0010
3. Annual Reviews that were reviewed and approved by the BSO or designee:
 - Armando Bravo, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – Annual Review) IBC Protocol #: IBC25-0056
 - Armando Bravo, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – Annual Review) IBC Protocol #: IBC23-043
4. Protocols Closed (at the request of the PI):
 - Dmitri Nusinow, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – Closure) IBC Protocol #: IBC21-0063

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:
 - Tessa Burch-Smith, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – New) IBC Protocol #: IBC26-0044
 - Dilip Shah, Ph.D., (IBC Protocol – New) IBC Protocol #: IBC26-0050

II. New Business

A. New Protocols

Principal Investigator	Doug Allen
Protocol #	IBC26-0054
Title	Evaluating medium chain fatty acid production in leaves of plants with high-oil background
Protocol Description	Examining oil accumulation and composition while performing genetic modifications to plants to analyze the effects
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 few typos in the microorganism's table.
IBC Decision	The IBC voted to contingently approve the protocol. (11-yes 0-no/0-abstention).

Principal Investigator	Keith Slotkin
Protocol #	IBC26-0073
Title	Pillar Research: Targeted Insertion in Danforth Flagship Crops
Protocol Description	The goal is to obtain transgenic targeted insertion using TAHITI in Pennycress.
Types of Organisms	Plant
NIH Guidelines Agents	rsNA



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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 specify which genes they intend to transpose into and within the plant genome.
IBC Decision	The IBC voted to contingently approve the protocol. (11-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 new putative biologicals to the existing Septoria pathosystem pipeline and updated the risk assessment and SOP.
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 add a risk if the rsNA material was released to the environment.
IBC Decision	The IBC voted to contingently approve the protocol. (11-yes 0-no/0-abstention).



C. Other Business:

1. Dilip Shah will be officially joining us in October as an IBC member.
2. The new NIH Guidelines have been proposed but are not yet official. Only GM plants and plant pathogens that cause human disease will be covered under the proposed guidelines. Brooke and Mindy are reviewing and will provide updates.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:13 PM.

Reviewed and approved by:

Sona Pandey
Sona Pandey (Sep 10, 2026 15:51:06 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_September 2026

Final Audit Report

2026-09-10

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