

IBC Meeting Minutes November 19, 2025

A regular meeting of the Salk Institute for Biological Studies, Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) was held on Wednesday, November 19, 2025, at noon PST in the Laureates Room of the Salk Institute.

Committee Members (10 members – 6 required for quorum)		Present
Sam Pfaff, PhD	Chair	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mark Bouchard, MPH	Vice Chair, Biosafety Officer (BSO)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Julie Law, PhD	Plant Expert	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Trinka Adamson, DVM	Animal Expert	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Dan Gibbs, PhD	Non-affiliated Community Member	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Tom Evans	Non-affiliated Community Member	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Shrek Chalasani, PhD		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ed Callaway, PhD		<input type="checkbox"/>
John Naughton		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Daniel Hollern, PhD		<input type="checkbox"/>

Others Present: Lisa Young, Venuz Greenfield, Zack Deane, Jen Scucchi

In accordance with the NIH Guidelines Section IV-B-2-a-(6), the meeting was open to the public.

Meeting was called to order at 12:06 pm.

Commonly Used Abbreviations

AAV: Adeno-Associated viral vector
 BSL: biosafety level
 BSL-2+: BSL-2 with BSL-3 practices
 BSO: Biosafety Officer
 DURC: Dual Use Research of Concern
 EH&S: Environmental Health & Safety
 HSV: Herpes Simplex Virus
 IACUC: Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee
 IBC: Institutional Biosafety Committee

iPSCs: induced pluripotent stem cells
 LCMV: Lymphocytic choriomeningitis virus
 NIH: National Institutes of Health
 PI: Principal Investigator
 r/sNA: recombinant or synthetic nucleic acids
 RG: Risk Group
 RSV: respiratory syncytial virus
 SOP: standard operating procedure
 VSV: vesicular stomatitis virus

General Business

1. **Review of Action List:** The Committee reviewed the Action List from the August 27, 2025, IBC meeting. There were no outstanding items, and no concerns were raised.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** The Committee reviewed and approved the Minutes of the August 27, 2025, IBC meeting.
3. **Regulatory Update:** The Committee discussed the recently launched NIH *Biosafety Modernization Initiative*. The Research Compliance Manager presented a summary of the information shared with the regulated community by the NIH Office of Science Policy during the first of six planned listening sessions, held on September 30 in partnership with ABSA affiliates.
4. **BSO Report – Location Tracking and Signage:** The BSO reported to the Committee on the EH&S procedure for tracking lab locations and animal rooms associated with BSL-1 and BSL-2 work approved on each protocol, and on ensuring that appropriate hazard communication signage is posted and updated in a timely manner.
5. **BSO Report – Training Data:** The BSO presented data on training completion rates for protocols reviewed at the August IBC meeting, as well as for those scheduled for review at the November 19 meeting. Feedback was requested from the Committee regarding the preferred format for presenting training data. The Committee indicated that the presented summary format was appropriate and sufficient, with the understanding that individual personnel records are tracked by Salk EH&S.

Full Committee Protocol Review – Amendments

Chalasanani IBC-10-0002 Mechanisms of how neural circuits drive behaviors

Summary: Annual review with amendment to add BSL1 agent *Microcystis* sp. Cyanobacteria

Agents	Biosafety Level
<i>Microcystis</i> sp. Cyanobacteria	BSL1

Review Notes / IBC Discussion:

The amendment adds the use of wildtype *Microcystis* sp. in vitro. The Committee had no concerns with the use of this agent and had no questions on the submission. With consideration for the risk associated with the agent, as well as the facilities, proposed procedures, training of personnel and the proposed containment and handling precautions, the Committee voted to approve the protocol amendment.

NIH Guidelines Section: Not applicable to this amendment

Approved For: 6 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0

Dr. Chalasanani left the room for the discussion of this submission and was recused from the vote.

Han IBC-17-0002 Elucidating neural circuits for adaptive behaviors

Summary: Annual review with amendment. Section 4, pertaining to transgenes expressed, has been updated to include additional chemogenetic constructs, additional fluorescent indicators, tetTox and an additional recombinase gene. Work with Cholera toxin subunit B was added to Section 12.

Agents	Biosafety Level
AAV	BSL1/ABSL1
G-deleted Rabies	BSL2/ABSL2

Review Notes / IBC Discussion:

The Committee had no questions or concerns about the proposed amendment. With consideration for the risk associated with the agents and the transgenes expressed, as well as the facilities, proposed procedures, training of personnel and the proposed containment and handling precautions, the Committee voted to approve the proposed experiments.

NIH Guidelines Section: III-D-1, III-D-4, III-E-1

Approved For: 7 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0

Mueller IBC-24-0001 Molecular mechanisms of beneficial plant-fungus interactions

Summary: Amendment to add work with GFP-tagged and wildtype *Pseudomonas syringae* pv tomato DC3000 - a bacterial plant pathogen.

Agents

Pseudomonas syringae pv tomato DC3000

Biosafety Level

BSL1-P

Review Notes / IBC Discussion:

The agent will be used to infect *Medicago truncatula* plants. The Committee had no questions or concerns about the proposed work. With consideration for the risk associated with the agents and the transgene expressed, as well as the facilities, proposed procedures, training of personnel and the proposed containment and handling precautions, the Committee voted to approve the protocol amendment.

NIH Guidelines Section: III-E-2-a

Approved For: 7 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0

Ramanan IBC-23-0002 Entero-mammary axis and its role in multigenerational disease susceptibility

Summary: Amendment to add experiments with several RG2 infectious agents in mouse models.

Agents added

Vibrio cholerae - El Tor Strain C6706

Vibrio cholerae - El Tor Strain C6706 (CTX mutant)

Escherichia coli - Enteroaggregative *E. coli* 042

Salmonella typhimurium - strain IR715

Biosafety Level

BSL2/ABSL2

BSL2/ABSL2

BSL2/ABSL2

BSL2/ABSL2

Review Notes / IBC Discussion:

The additional agents are all risk group 2 and are genetically modified to express specific antibiotic resistance. The work is proposed with BSL2 and ABSL2 containment and handling precautions. With consideration for the risk associated with the agents and the transgenes expressed, as well as the facilities, proposed procedures, training of personnel and the proposed containment and handling precautions, the Committee voted to approve the protocol pending successful BSO inspection of proposed lab use area.

NIH Guidelines Section: III-D-1, III-D-4

Approved pending BSO lab inspection For: 7 Opposed: 0 Abstain:

Notification of Annual Reviews

The Committee was notified that annual review submissions for the protocols listed below were reviewed and approved by the BSO since the last meeting. No significant changes were made to the protocols. Changes included: personnel and funding updates and removal of research no longer performed.

Ecker	IBC-24-0002	BSO Approved 11/18
Ecker	IBC-06-0005	BSO Approved 11/11
Engle	IBC-18-0005	BSO Approved 11/10
Naughton	IBC-10-0001	BSO Approved 11/10
Pfaff	IBC-06-0037	BSO approved 10/10
Shadel	IBC-18-0003	BSO approved 10/10
Tye	IBC-18-0004	BSO Approved 11/11

Dual Use Research of Concern

In accordance with the US Government Policy for Institutional Oversight of Life Sciences DURC and Pathogens with Pandemic Potential, the Salk Institute IBC serves as the Institutional Review Entity for DURC-PEPP research. All submissions listed above were assessed by the Committee with respect to dual use and pandemic potential and none were found to present DURC concerns.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:50 pm.
Minutes prepared by Lisa Young