Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC)

IBC Meeting Minutes
February 25, 2026

A regular meeting of the Salk Institute for Biological Studies, Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) was held on Wednesday, February 25, 2026, at 12:00 pm in the Laureates Room of the Salk Institute.

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

Others Present: Lisa Young, Venuz Greenfield

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 12:20 pm.

Commonly Used Abbreviations

AAV: Adeno-Associated viral vector
ABSL2: animal biosafety level 2
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 November 19, 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 November 19, 2025, IBC meeting.
3. **2025 Annual IBC Report:** The Committee reviewed the IBC 2025 Annual Report.
4. **IBC Policies and Procedures:** The Committee reviewed and approved the updated IBC Policies and Procedures.

5. **Training Report:** The Committee reviewed the training report outlining training completion for all personnel associated with the protocols on the agenda for full Committee review.
6. **Regulatory Update:** The Research Compliance Manager (RCM) informed the Committee that the NIH Strengthening and Modernizing Biosafety Oversight, listening session for the California region is scheduled for Feb 26th at 10:00 am. It was requested that RCM provide a summary of the session to the Committee.
7. **BSO Report:**

Rabies Vaccination
The BSO reported that Salk's Occupational Health provider, UCSD Center for Occupational and Environmental Medicine (COEM), has updated its recommendations for individuals working with g-deleted rabies virus. UCSD COEM now refers all personnel working with g-deleted rabies for medical consultation and recommends rabies vaccination, except when the virus is both g-deleted and pseudotyped with the avian Env-A glycoprotein.

The Committee discussed this policy, and reaffirmed the IBC's existing recommendations based on current risk assessments:

- The Committee does not require or recommend rabies vaccination for personnel working with only the g-deleted SAD B19 strain.
- Rabies vaccination is required for personnel working with replication-competent rabies virus.

The Committee noted that medical consult and vaccination should be available to those working with g-deleted rabies if requested. The Committee further emphasized the importance of ensuring that personnel receive accurate and appropriate information regarding the risks associated with the agents they handle and vaccines offered.

Training
The BSO informed the Committee that Salk has acquired a subscription to the CITI training program. EH&S may transition from AALAS learning library to CITI for initial bloodborne pathogen training.

Full Committee Protocol Review – Renewals

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

Summary: The protocol describes work with commensal isolates and several RG2 bacterial agents in mouse models. With this renewal, approval for 3 new agents was requested: Enterotoxigenic E. coli, Yersinia enterocolitica and Staphylococcus epidermidis. Transgenic mouse lines are utilized in the research.

Agents	**Biosafety Level**
Commensal isolates murine (in-house)	BSL1 – ABSL1
Commensal isolates murine (external)	BSL2 – ABSL2
Commensal isolates human	BSL1 – ABSL1
Citrobacter rodentium	BSL2 – ABSL2
Staphylococcus aureus	BSL2 – ABSL2
Streptococcus agalactiae	BSL2 – ABSL2
Vibrio cholerae El Tor Strain C6706	BSL2 – ABSL2
Vibrio cholerae El Tor Strain C6706 (CTX mutant)	BSL2 – ABSL2
Escherichia coli	BSL2 – ABSL2

Salmonella typhimurium	BSL2 – ABSL2
Yersinia enterocolitica	BSL2 – ABSL2
Staphylococcus epidermis	BSL2 – ABSL2

Review Notes / IBC Discussion:
Most agents used are wildtype. The Vibrio cholerae, Escherichia coli and Yersinia enterocolitica strains include standard laboratory antibiotic selection markers.

The agents added with this renewal are RG2 and the Committee agreed that the proposed handling and containment are appropriate.

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 clarification of the item below.

- ☐ Please clarify whether work with RG1 commensal isolates is done at ABSL2 or in conventional animal rooms and whether they are handled with BSL2 precautions.

NIH Guidelines Section: III-D-4, III-D-1, III-F-8

Approved pending clarification For: 6 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0
(BSO to confirm clarification)

Ramanan IBC-25-0003 Molecular genetic studies of cancer initiation and progression

Summary: For this project, recombinant lenti and AAV viral vectors will be used to introduce genetic modifications such as oncogene activation or tumor suppressor silencing in mammary epithelial cells, to model breast cancer in mouse models. With this renewal updates were made to the listed personnel.

Agents	**Biosafety Level**
AAV	BSL2 – ABSL2
Lentivirus (3rd gen)	BSL2+ – ABSL2

Review Notes / IBC Discussion:
The Committee noted that BSL2+ precautions should be checked for work with lentivirus vectors carrying genes with growth-regulating potential. 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 with the clarification below.

- ☐ Please confirm that BSL2+ handling precautions are utilized when handling lentivirus vectors carrying potentially oncogenic genes.

NIH Guidelines Section: III-D-1, III-D-4, III-F-8

Approved pending clarification For: 6 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0
(Administratively approve if BSL2+ is confirmed)

Allen IBC-13-0001 Astrocyte-neuron interactions in health and disease

Summary: This protocol describes the use of AAV viral vectors to target astrocytes in vitro and in mouse models. rDNA is also used to produce purified proteins in cell culture. Edits were made to funding and personnel. Several additional expressed genes added in the viral vector section.

Agents	**Biosafety Level**
AAV	BSL2 if carrying oncogenes, BSL1 for other constructs

Review Notes / IBC Discussion:
AAV vectors will be engineered expressing low risk genes such as reporter genes or fluorescent proteins. These will be utilized at BSL2 – ABSL2. AAV vectors will also be used that express astrocyte-expressed proteins that modulate synapses and are involved in various cellular signaling processes; and will be handled at BSL2 – ABSL2. CRSPR technology delivered by AAVs will be used to modify gene expression in astrocytes to evaluate its role in regulating motor function. 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 as written.

NIH Guidelines Section: III-E-1, III-D-4, III-F-8

Approved For: 6 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0

Hunter	IBC-06-0011	Histidine phosphorylation as a new target for cancer therapy; Mechanisms influencing the development, maintenance, and treatment of pancreatic cancer

Summary:
Studies in the Hunter lab include the characterization of the progression of different kinds of cancer, with the aim of identifying sites in proteins where post-translational modifications occur. The protocol describes work with several RG 2 viral vectors. The lab also works with human tissues and transgenic animals. With this renewal edits were made to personnel and funding. Additional sources of human material were referenced

Agents	**Biosafety Level**
Adenoviral vectors	BSL2 - ABSL2
Lentivirus (3rd gen)	BSL2/BSL2+ - ABSL2

Review Notes / IBC Discussion:
The lab works with Adenoviral and lentivral vectors in vitro. The research includes evaluation of signaling proteins and post-translational modification pathways relevant to cancer biology including phospho-histidine regulated kinases and phosphatases.

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 renewal with the clarifications below.

- ☐ Please confirm that BSL2+ handling precautions are utilized when handling lentivirus vectors carrying potentially oncogenic genes.
- ☐ In 9.1 Please clarify that “universal precautions” are used when handling human material

NIH Guidelines Section: III-D-1, III-F-8

Approved pending clarification For: 6 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0
(Administratively approve if requested clarifications are made)

Full Committee Protocol Review – Amendment

Blum IBC-25-0002 Contribution of Plant Metabolites to Oral Tolerance and Allergy
Amended to add use of the fungal plant pathogen Fusarium graminearum Schwabe.

Agents	**Biosafety Level**
Fusarium graminearum Schwabe	BSL1P

Review Notes / IBC Discussion:
BSO informed the Committee that he is working with the PI to secure a USDA permit for work with this agent and expected that there would be a USDA inspection associated prior to issuing of the permit. The Committee has no concerns with the work being performed as described in the protocol and approved the work with the proposed handling and containment precautions.

NIH Guidelines Section: Not applicable to work added with this amendment.

Approved For: 6 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0

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.

Asahina	IBC-14-0001	Karlseder	IBC-06-0013
Behrens	IBC-10-0004	Shaw	IBC-06-0020
Callaway	IBC-06-0032	Zheng	IBC-10-0006

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 1:00 pm