INSTITUTIONAL BIOSAFETY COMMITTEE (IBC)
MEETING MINUTES - DUARTE

Monday, 11/17/2025

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:	Tamara Casebolt, Ph.D., Biosafety Officer Rowelle Enriquez, M.S., Lab Research Protections Director Richard Ermel, D.V.M, Ph.D., MPVM, DACLAM, Veterinarian Marcin Kortylewski, Ph.D., Scientist, Chair Rebecca Lally, Community Member Renate Starr, M.S., Scientist/Lab Personnel Srividya Swaminathan, Ph.D., Scientist, Vice Chair
VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT:	Mike Chen, M.D., Scientist/Physician Stephen Hodgson, Ed.D., Community Member Suke Patel, Radiation Safety Officer Vinod Pullarkat, M.D., Scientist/Physician
ALTERNATE MEMBERS PRESENT:	Ashraf Amshaqn, Biosafety Specialist (Alternate for: Tamara Casebolt, Ph.D.) , Joshua Tompkins, Ph.D., Scientist (Alternate for: Srividya Swaminathan, Ph.D.)
STAFF PRESENT:	Alyse DiStefano, Jennifer Kim, Linna Makmura
GUEST PRESENT:	Adrienne Lindsay, M.B.A, MS

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
   The meeting was conducted remotely. The chair called the meeting to order at 4:02 PM.
   a. **Confidentiality Notice**
      Attendees were reminded that information brought before the committee are confidential and may only be used for committee business.
   b. **Conflict of Interest Declaration**
      Attendees were reminded that they declare if there is a known conflict of interest with any submissions being discussed. Conflicts of interest include:
      1. Where an immediate family member of the member is involved in the design, conduct, and reporting of the research.
      2. Where the member holds a financial interest related to the research being reviewed.
      3. When the member is named on the protocol.
      4. Any other situation where the member believes that another interest conflicts with his/her ability to deliberate objectively on a protocol.
   c. **Public Posting**
      Public meeting notice was posted with no comments/questions from the public received.

2. **OLD BUSINESS**
   a. **Review of Minutes**
      The minutes of the meeting held on 10/20/2025 were reviewed. No issues were raised, and a motion was made to approve the minutes as written. The approved minutes will be posted for public access at www.cityofhope.org.

      DECISION: The Minutes of the Meeting Held on 10/20/2025 Approved
      Voting: Total=7, For=6, Against=0, Abstain=1

   b. **Deferred**
      None

3. **NEW BUSINESS**
   a. **Safety Office Report**

Please see the report attached to the agenda in iRIS.

b. IBC 2026 Meeting Schedule

The committee were informed of the 2026 schedule and meeting invites will be sent.

c. Review of Policies and Guidelines

None

d. **Initial Review**

IBC 25049 (III-D)	Ref # 294662	BSL2+
Construction of sMVA-EBOV vaccine		
PI: Diamond, Don, Ph.D.		
The project aims to develop a synthetic Modified Vaccinia Ankara (sMVA) vaccine vector that expresses the Ebola virus glycoprotein (Yambuku/Mayinga strain). The glycoprotein sequence, provided by Los Alamos National Laboratory, will be inserted into the MVA backbone, and the resulting construct will be evaluated for antigen stability and expression using PCR and Western blot techniques.		
The assigned IBC Primary Reviewer presented the Primary Review. The training of personnel and proposed work/containment level for listed facilities were reviewed and verified. The committee went through the comments made by the pre-reviewers. No other issues were raised during the discussion. **DECISION: Protocol Approved with Comment(s) That Must Be Addressed** Total Members Voting: **7** [For: **7** Absent: **0** Against: **0** Conflict of Interest: **0** Not Present: **0** Abstained: **0**]		
COMMENTS THAT MUST BE ADDRESSED: • Additional clarification requested regarding the purpose of experimental procedures. • Additional clarification requested regarding experimental procedures. • Biosafety containment level for non-recombinant material updated. • Clarification on locations for specific experiments and research requested.		

IBC 25047 (III-D)	Ref # 294279	BSL2+
Establishing biologically informed clinical care for patients with plasma cell malignancies and other blood cancers.		
PI: Sklavenitis Pistofidis, Romanos, M.D., Ph.D.		
The project studies plasma cell malignancies and other blood cancers by analyzing patient samples (bone marrow, blood, lymph node, etc.) and performing molecular profiling and functional assays. It uses mammalian cell lines and primary cells, including tumor cells and immune cells (T cells, NK cells, B cells), to identify biological factors influencing disease progression and treatment response.		
The assigned IBC Primary Reviewer presented the Primary Review. The training of personnel and proposed work/containment level for listed facilities were reviewed and verified. The committee went through the comments made by the pre-reviewers. No other issues were raised during the discussion. **DECISION: Protocol Modification(s) Required to Secure Approval** Total Members Voting: **7** [For: **7** Absent: **0** Against: **0** Conflict of Interest: **0** Not Present: **0** Abstained: **0**]		

REQUIRED MODIFICATIONS:

- Additional clarification requested regarding the purpose of experimental procedures.
- Additional details requested for recombinant materials.
- Additional details requested for lentiviral handling and research.
- Updates requested for chemical and drug inventory

e. Third-Year Renewal(s)

IBC 95017 (III-D)	Ref # 294128	BSL2/ABSL2
GENE THERAPY OF MARROW CELLS DURING CANCER TREATMENT:PROJECT 1. AAV-MEDIATED GENE TRANSFER INTO HEMATOPOIETIC CELLS		
PI: Chatterjee, Saswati, Ph.D.		
The project uses adeno-associated virus (AAV), a non-pathogenic viral vector, to deliver DNA sequences into human cells and mice. These sequences include reporter genes for tracking and therapeutic genes for correcting genetic disorders. Experiments involve various human cell types (e.g., blood stem cells, liver, skin, nerve) and immortalized cell lines, as well as in vivo testing in immunocompetent and immune-deficient mice.		
The assigned IBC Primary Reviewer presented the Primary Review. The training of personnel and proposed work/containment level for listed facilities were reviewed and verified. The committee went through the comments made by the pre-reviewers. No other issues were raised during the discussion. **DECISION: Protocol Approved** Total Members Voting: **7** [For: **7** Absent: **0** Against: **0** Conflict of Interest: **0** Not Present: **0** Abstained: **0**]		

IBC 16023 (III-D)	Ref # 294534	BSL2/ABSL2
ROLE OF NON-CODING RNAS IN VASCULAR BIOLOGY AND DIABETIC COMPLICATIONS		
PI: Chen, Zhen, Ph.D.		
The study investigates vascular endothelial cell responses to stress and the role of regulatory molecules such as miRNAs, lncRNAs, and associated proteins. It uses adenoviral and retroviral vectors to deliver these genes into cultured endothelial cells and mice, and also employs genetically modified mice (e.g., AGO1 knockout) for in vivo analysis. Additional models include the murine ovarian cancer cell line ID8 and human iPSC-derived vessel organoids to study vascular function and disease interactions.		
The assigned IBC Primary Reviewer presented the Primary Review. The training of personnel and proposed work/containment level for listed facilities were reviewed and verified. The committee went through the comments made by the pre-reviewers. No other issues were raised during the discussion. **DECISION: Protocol Approved with Comment(s) That Must Be Addressed** Total Members Voting: **7** [For: **7** Absent: **0** Against: **0** Conflict of Interest: **0** Not Present: **0** Abstained: **0**]		

COMMENTS THAT MUST BE ADDRESSED:

- Additional clarification requested regarding experimental procedures.
- Additional details requested for recombinant materials
- Personnel must fulfill additional training requirements.
- Updated information requested for personnel.

IBC 07020 (III-D)	Ref # 294586	BSL2/ABSL2
GENERATION OF TRANSPLANTABLE PANCREATIC BETA CELLS FROM STEM CELLS		
PI: Ku, Hsun (Teresa), Ph.D.		
The project aims to generate insulin-producing beta-like cells from stem cells for type 1 diabetes therapy. Researchers use human pluripotent stem cell lines and adult pancreatic stem cells from mice and humans to create these cells in vitro. The goal is to develop a renewable source of therapeutic cells for transplantation.		
The assigned IBC Primary Reviewer presented the Primary Review. The training of personnel and proposed work/containment level for listed facilities were reviewed and verified. The committee went through the comments made by the pre-reviewers. No other issues were raised during the discussion. **DECISION: Protocol Approved with Comment(s) That Must Be Addressed** Total Members Voting: **7** [For: **7** Absent: **0** Against: **0** Conflict of Interest: **0** Not Present: **0** Abstained: **0**]		
COMMENTS THAT MUST BE ADDRESSED: • Update on funding sources requested. • Additional clarification requested regarding experimental procedures. • Additional details requested for recombinant materials. • Personnel must fulfill additional training requirements. • Updated information requested for personnel. • Update decontamination and waste disposal procedure to Institutional Safety standards.		

IBC 22061 (III-D)	Ref # 294104	BSL2+
Targeting HTLV-I with targeted effectors to inhibit HTLV-I infection and associated cancers		
PI: Scott, Tristan, Ph.D.		
The project focuses on developing targeted gene therapies for adult T-cell leukemia/lymphoma (ATL), which is caused by Human T-lymphotropic virus type I (HTLV-I). Researchers aim to suppress or inactivate the viral HBZ gene, a key driver of cancer progression, using gene therapy approaches.		
The assigned IBC Primary Reviewer presented the Primary Review. The training of personnel and proposed work/containment level for listed facilities were reviewed and verified. The committee went through the comments made by the pre-reviewers. No other issues were raised during the discussion. **DECISION: Protocol Approved** Total Members Voting: **7** [For: **7** Absent: **0** Against: **0** Conflict of Interest: **0** Not Present: **0** Abstained: **0**]		

IBC 16015 (III-D)	Ref # 294207	BSL2
THE IDENTIFICATION OF NOVEL BIOMARKERS FOR HIGH-RISK BREAST CANCER		
PI: Seewaldt, Victoria, M.D.		
The study investigates triple-negative breast cancer (TNBC) using breast cancer cell lines and patient-derived breast tissue samples. Researchers focus on the KCNK9 gene, which encodes a potassium channel protein, and its role in TNBC progression, along with other signaling pathways such as Wnt, Akt/mTOR, and HER2/Myc. DNA, RNA, and protein analyses are performed to identify biomarkers and molecular mechanisms linked to cancer development.		
The assigned IBC Primary Reviewer presented the Primary Review. The training of personnel and		

proposed work/containment level for listed facilities were reviewed and verified. The committee went through the comments made by the pre-reviewers. No other issues were raised during the discussion.
DECISION: Protocol Approved

Total Members Voting: **7**
[For: **7** Absent: **0** Against: **0** Conflict of Interest: **0** Not Present: **0** Abstained: **0**]

IBC 10030 (III-D)	Ref # 293690	BSL2/ABSL2
ANTI CANCER COMPOUNDS THERAPEUTIC TESTING IN CANINE CANCER OR HUMAN CANCER XENOGRAFT MOUSE MODELS		
PI: Wu, Jun, Ph.D.		
The study uses xenograft models with human and canine tumor tissues implanted in mice to test natural and synthetic anti-cancer compounds. It employs lentiviral vectors carrying reporter genes (e.g., luciferase, fluorescent proteins) for cancer cell labeling and synthetic DNA/RNA molecules (siRNA, miRNA) for gene targeting. Additional models include humanized and chimeric mice created by implanting human embryonic, hematopoietic, and liver cells.		
The assigned IBC Primary Reviewer presented the Primary Review. The training of personnel and proposed work/containment level for listed facilities were reviewed and verified. The committee went through the comments made by the pre-reviewers. No other issues were raised during the discussion. **DECISION: Protocol Approved with Comment(s)** Total Members Voting: **7** [For: **7** Absent: **0** Against: **0** Conflict of Interest: **0** Not Present: **0** Abstained: **0**]		
COMMENTS: Cite any relevant publications/presentations that are indicative of progress with this study.		

IBC 10029 (III-D)	Ref # 294463	BSL2/ABSL2
THE ROLE OF AUTOREACTIVITY IN PATHOGENESIS OF CHRONIC GVHD		
PI: Zeng, De-Fu, Ph.D.		
The study investigates graft-versus-host disease (GVHD) using mouse models. Researchers use hydrodynamic injection of plasmid DNA encoding the B7H1 gene to increase its expression and assess its effect on GVHD, along with B7H1 knockout mice for comparison. Additional approaches include IL-17 depletion in transgenic mice using diphtheria toxin and antibody-based elimination of CD103-expressing T cells.		
The assigned IBC Primary Reviewer presented the Primary Review. The training of personnel and proposed work/containment level for listed facilities were reviewed and verified. The committee went through the comments made by the pre-reviewers. No other issues were raised during the discussion. **DECISION: Protocol Approved with Comment(s) That Must Be Addressed** Total Members Voting: **7** [For: **7** Absent: **0** Against: **0** Conflict of Interest: **0** Not Present: **0** Abstained: **0**]		
COMMENTS THAT MUST BE ADDRESSED: • Additional clarification requested regarding the purpose of experimental procedures. • Additional clarification requested regarding In Vivo work. • Updates requested for chemical and drug inventory.		

- Personnel must fulfill additional training requirements.
- Updated information requested for personnel.

f. **Amendment(s)**

IBC 23066 (III-D)	Ref # 294453	BSL2/ABSL2
Preclinical Evaluation of Neoantigens in Solid Tumors for the Generation of sMVA-Based Vaccines		
PI: Diamond, Don, Ph.D.		
The project develops personalized cancer vaccines by identifying tumor-specific neoantigens through DNA sequencing of tumor samples. Selected neoantigen sequences are inserted into a synthetic Modified Vaccinia Ankara (sMVA) viral vector to create individualized vaccines. Preclinical testing is performed in mice using established transplantable tumor models.		
The assigned IBC Primary Reviewer presented the Primary Review. The training of personnel and proposed work/containment level for listed facilities were reviewed and verified. The committee went through the comments made by the pre-reviewers. No other issues were raised during the discussion. **DECISION: Protocol Approved** Total Members Voting: **7** [For: **7** Absent: **0** Against: **0** Conflict of Interest: **0** Not Present: **0** Abstained: **0**]		

4. ADJOURNMENT

List of Protocols not meeting the criteria for full committee review (not discussed in the meeting) was displayed in the meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:57 PM.