

**INSTITUTIONAL BIOSAFETY COMMITTEE (IBC)  
MEETING MINUTES - DUARTE**

**Monday, 12/15/2025**

**VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:** Tamara Casebolt, Biosafety Officer  
Rowelle Enriquez, Laboratory Protections Director  
Stephen Hodgson, Community Member  
Marcin Kortylewski, Scientist, Chair  
Rebecca Lally, Community Member  
Renate Starr, Scientist/Lab Personnel  
Srividya Swaminathan, Scientist, Vice Chair

**VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT:** Mike Chen, Scientist/Physician  
Richard Ermel, Veterinarian  
Suke Patel, Radiation Safety Officer  
Vinod Pullarkat, Scientist/Physician

**ALTERNATE MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jay Benson, Safety Specialist (Alternate for Tamara Casebolt)  
Lisa Feldman, Scientist/Physician (Alternate for Mike Chen)

**STAFF PRESENT:** 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 4:03 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 11/17/2025 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](http://www.cityofhope.org).

**DECISION: The Minutes of the Meeting Held on 11/17/2025 Approved  
Voting: Total=8, For=6, Against=0, Abstain=2**

**b. Deferred**

None

**3. NEW BUSINESS**

**a. Safety Office Report**

Please see the report attached to the agenda in iRIS.  
The Annual Safety Report was presented by Tamara Casebolt, Ph.D.

**b. IBC Membership Update**

None

**c. Review of Policies and Guidelines**

**IBC Policy & Procedures** – this document was updated. The changes cover the following:

1. Removal of Annual Review submission requirement for non-clinical IBC application
2. Removal of chemical oversight
3. Revised physical hazards

**DECISION: Approved (8-0)**

**d. Initial Review**

<b>IBC 25047 (III-D)</b>	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 study analyzes patient samples and various mammalian cell lines—including tumor cells, immune cells (T, B, NK, monocytes, dendritic cells, granulocytes), and stromal cells—to identify biological drivers of blood cancers. It uses molecular profiling and functional assays to examine tumor-intrinsic and immune- or stroma-related mechanisms of disease progression and treatment response. The overall goal is to develop biologically informed diagnostic, risk-stratification, and therapeutic approaches for plasma cell malignancies and other hematologic cancers.		
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.		
<b>DECISION: Protocol Approved</b>		

Total Members Voting: 8

[ For: 8 Absent: 0 Against: 0 Conflict of Interest: 0 Not Present: 0 Abstained: 0 ]

**e. Third-Year Renewal(s)**

<b>IBC 16019 (III-D)</b>	Ref # 295339	BSL2/ABSL2
ROLE OF THE BONE MARROW MICROENVIRONMENT AND OF CELL AUTONOMOUS MECHANISMS IN THE REGULATION OF BLOOD PRODUCTION IN STRESS, INFLAMMATION AND LEUKEMIA		
PI: Carlesso, Nadia, M.D., Ph.D.		
The study investigates how bone marrow stromal cells and hematopoietic stem cells respond to inflammatory signals—including Notch pathway dysregulation, bacterial components such as LPS, and cytokines like TNF $\alpha$ —and how these interactions contribute to aging, altered blood production, and leukemia development. Using primary hematopoietic stem/progenitor cells and bone marrow stromal cell populations, the research examines molecular regulators of HSC quiescence (e.g., SKP2) and the effects of systemic inflammatory conditions. The goal is to identify cellular and molecular mechanisms that influence engraftment, clonal evolution, and disease progression.		
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.		
<b>DECISION: Protocol Approved with Comment(s) That Must Be Addressed</b>		
Total Members Voting: 8 [ For: 8 Absent: 0 Against: 0 Conflict of Interest: 0 Not Present: 0 Abstained: 0 ]		
<b>COMMENTS THAT MUST BE ADDRESSED:</b>		
1. The listed facilities need to be inspected for the proposed work/containment level. 2. Updated information requested for personnel		

<b>IBC 20004 (III-D)</b>	Ref # 295735	BSL2+/ABSL1+
New generation Modified Vaccinia Ankara (MVA) vectors for prophylactic and therapeutic use (Synthetic MVA)		
PI: Diamond, Don, Ph.D.		
The work centers on Modified Vaccinia Ankara (MVA), including a fully synthetic MVA (sMVA) assembled from plasmids, with vaccines created by inserting immunogenic gene sequences into defined MVA genome sites. Reconstitution uses avian cell lines (CEF, DF-1) and a rabbit fibroma virus (RFV) helper, with prior workflows in BHK (murine) cells being phased out for regulatory/QC reasons. Immunogenicity is evaluated in animal models and human samples to validate vaccine responses.		
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: **8**

[ For: **8** Absent: **0** Against: **0** Conflict of Interest: **0** Not Present: **0** Abstained: **0** ]

**COMMENTS THAT MUST BE ADDRESSED:**

1. Update on funding sources requested.
2. Biosafety containment level for recombinant material updated.
3. Additional details requested for recombinant materials.
4. Additional clarification requested regarding experimental procedures.

**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 4:30 PM.