The University of Texas at El Paso
Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC)
MINUTES OF MEETING
August 15, 2025

Members attending the meeting: Arriaga, Berenice; Dupre, JoAnne; Kuri, Sarai; Ibarra-Mejia, Gabriel; Llano, Manuel; Moschak, Travis; Weich, Erin; Joseph, Elaine N.

Guest Present: Cervantes, Jaisel; Blanco, Ana; Anaya, Veronica; Anaya, Elizabeth.

Absent members: Vines, Charlotte M; Das, Siddhartha; Narayan, Mahesh.

1. **Panel Chair Announcement**
   The IBC Vice Chair, Dr. Travis Moschak, called the meeting to order at 9:01 AM. A quorum was established.

2. **Confidentiality and Conflict of Interest**
   All Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) members and any individuals in attendance were reminded of their obligation to maintain the confidentiality of all IBC proceedings, including discussions, deliberations, submissions, reviews, and communications, unless such information is already publicly available. This confidentiality extends to all matters discussed during the meeting, including materials submitted for review and the outcomes of committee actions.
   IBC members are further reminded of their responsibility to disclose any potential or actual conflicts of interest prior to the discussion of any agenda item.

3. **Approval of Minutes from the Previous Meeting.**
   The Committee reviewed and approved the meeting minutes from the July 18, 2025, IBC meeting. The minutes were **Approved** (7 voted to approve, 0 opposed, 0 abstained)

Protocols for Review

4. **New Protocols for Review**: (for below-listed protocols, pending deliberation on a new protocol or a de novo triennial protocol renewal submission; for triennial renewal submissions, the review includes deliberation on a final report for the previous three-year approval period)

   4.1 **Title:** Use of Mycobacterium marinum as a surrogate to study the pathogenesis of M. tuberculosis under BSL-2 containment
   Protocol ID: 25-07-113
   Principal Investigator: Ouellet, Hugues
   Review Type: Full Committee Review
   Action: Approved (7 voted to approve, 0 opposed, 0 abstained)

   Discussion:
   The initial application is to work Mycobacterium tuberculosis (Mtb) by investigating the function of the Rv2275-cyp121 operon, using Mycobacterium marinum (Mm) as a BSL-2 surrogate model to characterize recombinant strains and assess their molecular and biochemical properties in vitro. The protocol was

approved and the IBC committee recommended to conduct the sonication procedure described in the protocol to be done in the Chemical Fume Hood.

NIH Guidelines:
Experiments involving the introduction of recombinant or synthetic nucleic acid molecules into cultured eukaryotic cells, section III-D-1-a

5. Procedural Amendments to Protocols: (for the below-listed protocol(s), deliberation on a proposed change in procedures or location for a protocol that currently has a three-year approval period)

5.1 **Title:** Synthesis of alpha-galactosyl glycolipid nanoparticles and their effects on macrophages
Protocol ID: 25-07-109
Principal Investigator: Michael, Katja
Review Type: Full Committee Review
Action: Approved (7 voted to approve, 0 opposed, 0 abstained)

Discussion:
The PI is adding the usage of flow cytometry procedures, α-Gal glycolipid nanoparticles, expansion to a Human Cell Line (U937), polyclonal anti-Rha antibodies from Normal Human Serum, and addition of personnel. The Procedural amendment was approved.

NIH Guidelines:
Experiments involving the introduction of recombinant or synthetic nucleic acid molecules into cultured eukaryotic cells, section III-D-1-a

5.2 **Title:** : Bacterial-host interactions in the tumor microenviroment
Protocol ID: 25-07-108
Principal Investigator: Galeano Nino, Jorge
Review Type: Full Committee Review
Action: Approved (7 voted to approve, 0 opposed, 0 abstained)

Discussion:
The PI is adding new bacterial strains - Staphylococcus aureus (ATCC 23235 and subsp. aureus Rosenbach 12600) and Escherichia coli (ATCC 8739 and BAA-3219) - to serve as standard control strains for in-vitro experiments and personnel to the project. The Procedural amendment was approved.

NIH Guidelines:
Experiments involving the introduction of recombinant or synthetic nucleic acid molecules into Risk Group 2 agents as host-vector systems, Section III-D-1-a.

6. Personnel: (for the below-listed protocol(s), announcement that new individuals have been administratively processed to work on a protocol based on completion of training):

6.1 **Title:** Use of Mycobacterium marinum as a surrogate to study the pathogenesis of M. tuberculosis under BSL-2 containment
Protocol ID: 25-07-113
Principal Investigator: Ouellet, Hugues
Review Type: Administrative
Action: Acknowledge

6.2 **Title:** Synthesis of alpha-galactosyl glycolipid nanoparticles and their effects on macrophages
Protocol ID: 25-07-109
Principal Investigator: Michael, Katja
Review Type: Administrative
Action: Acknowledge

6.3 **Title:** Bacterial-host interactions in the tumor microenviroment
Protocol ID: 25-07-108
Principal Investigator: Galeano Nino, Jorge
Review Type: Administrative
Action: Acknowledge

7. Discussion and Approval Action regarding the following matters:

A. Biosafety Officer brief to IBC on Lab Safety Inspections, Lab Construction/ Modifications, spills/incidents

I. [redacted]

II. [redacted]

III. The Insectary experienced operational disruptions due to heavy rainfall and roof damage in the Biology building. The Insectary has been temporarily shut down and currently the damage is being fixed, there is no experimentation in the area at the moment.

IV. A new position for an Assistant Biosafety Officer will be posted to fill the vacancy.

B. General Announcements

I. The IBC Coordinator welcomed Ms. Sarai Kuri as a new IBC member.

II. The IBC Coordinator also welcomed Dr. Moschak as the new IBC Vice Chair.

III. Next IBC meeting scheduled for September 19 at 9am

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:52 AM.