

University of Texas at El Paso

Panel: IBC Panel

MINUTES OF MEETING

April 24, 2026

Members Present:

Voting:

1. Das, Siddhartha (Chair) (Voting)
2. Arriaga, Berenice (Voting)
3. Dupre, Jo Anne (Voting)
4. Joseph, Elaine (Alternate Member)
5. Moschak, Travis (Voting)
6. Baird, Anthony (Voting)
7. Sharifan, Hamidreza (Voting)
8. Llano, Manuel (Voting)
9. Ibarra-Mejia, Gabriel (Voting)

Non-Voting Ex-Officios:

1. Gruszka, Dennis (Non-Voting)
2. Piramadathottathil Venu, Shonima (Non-Voting)

Minute Secretary:

1. Gruszka, Dennis

Guests:

1. Leyva, Mauricio (EH&S - Radiation Safety)

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 A.M by S. Das, Chair. Quorum was met with 8 of 13 voting members present at the start of the meeting.

1. Confidentiality of Panel Proceedings

A confidentiality statement was read to all members.

2. Panel Chair Announcements

The IBC Chair had no special announcements.

3. Minutes

The committee deferred the meeting minutes from March 27th to the May meeting to provide the committee with more time to review. Approved: 8, Opposed: 0, Abstain: 0

4. New Protocols

A. **Protocol ID:** 26-02-169

Principal Investigator: Poon, Wilson

Title: Screening miRNA-lipid nanoparticles as therapeutics in a Parkinson's disease SH-SY5Y cell model

Review Type: FULLBOARD

Primary Reviewer(s): Moschak, Travis

Secondary Reviewer(s): Baird, Anthony; Arriaga, Berenice; Vines, Charlotte; Weich, Erin; Joseph, Elaine; Ibarra-Mejia, Gabriel; Llano, Manuel; Narayan, Mahesh; Das, Siddhartha; Piramadathottathil Venu, Shonima; Dupre, Jo Anne; Sharifan, Hamidreza

Review Cycle Type: Full Review

A Protocol involving human derived cell lines and toxin use was discussed and the associated RG2 risks involved. A motion was made to return the protocol for modifications in which it will be reviewed by Designated Member Review post modifications and seconded. Approved: 8, Opposed: 0, Abstain: 0

B. **Protocol ID:** 26-01-156

Principal Investigator: Koculi, Eda

Title: Studies of Ribosome Biogenesis

Review Type: FULLBOARD

Primary Reviewer(s): Das, Siddhartha

Secondary Reviewer(s): Baird, Anthony; Arriaga, Berenice; Vines, Charlotte; Weich, Erin; Joseph, Elaine; Ibarra-Mejia, Gabriel; Dupre, Jo Anne; Leyva, Mauricio; Das, Siddhartha; Piramadathottathil Venu, Shonima; Moschak, Travis; Sharifan, Hamidreza

Review Cycle Type: Full Review

A Protocol involving Sections III-F-6 and Appendix C-II was discussed, including the associated radiation and RG2 risks. A motion was made to defer the protocol to the May convened meeting pending previously requested modifications and seconded. Approved: 8, Opposed: 0, Abstain: 0

A voting member of the committee joined the meeting at 10:30 A.M. Quorum was updated to 9 of 13 voting members present.

C. **Protocol ID:** 26-03-172

Principal Investigator: Hirschi, Kendal

Title: Plant Membrane Transport

Review Type: FULLBOARD

Primary Reviewer(s): Das, Siddhartha; Sharifan, Hamidreza

Secondary Reviewer(s): Baird, Anthony; Arriaga, Berenice; Vines, Charlotte; Weich, Erin; Joseph, Elaine; Ibarra-Mejia, Gabriel; Dupre, Jo Anne; Llano, Manuel; Piramadathottathil Venu, Shonima; Moschak, Travis

Review Cycle Type: Full Review

A Protocol involving Sections III-D-5, III-E-2, III-F-6, Appendix C-II was discussed, including the RG1 risks involved. A motion was made to approve the protocol with conditions and seconded. Approved: 9, Opposed: 0, Abstain: 0

5. Procedural Amendments

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

A. **Protocol ID:** 26-10-128

Principal Investigator: Poon, Wilson

Title: Engineering nanoparticles for biomedical applications

Review Type: FULLBOARD

Primary Reviewer(s): Moschak, Travis

Secondary Reviewer(s): Baird, Anthony; Arriaga, Berenice; Vines, Charlotte, Weich, Erin; Joseph, Elaine; Ibarra-Mejia, Gabriel; Dupre, Jo Anne; Llano, Manuel; Das, Siddhartha; Sharifan, Hamidreza; Piramadathottathil Venu, Shonima.

Review Cycle Type: Full Review

A Protocol involving Section III-D-4, and III-E-3 was discussed, including the RG1 and RG2 risks involved. A motion was made to return the protocol for clarification of the animal BSL level. Since the requested modification is administrative in nature, it was further motioned to be reviewed by Designated Member Review post clarification. The motion was seconded. Approved: 9, Opposed: 0, Abstain: 0

B. **Protocol ID:** 26-01-152

Principal Investigator: Lu, Weiqin

Other Investigators: Romero Villagomez, Fabian

Title: Use of Second-Generation Lentiviral Packaging System for Gene Delivery in Pancreatic Cancer Cells

Review Type: FULLBOARD

Primary Reviewer(s): Moschak, Travis

Secondary Reviewer(s): Baird, Anthony; Arriaga, Berenice; Vines, Charlotte, Weich, Erin; Joseph, Elaine; Ibarra-Mejia, Gabriel; Dupre, Jo Anne; Llano, Manuel; Das, Siddhartha; Sharifan, Hamidreza; Piramadathottathil Venu, Shonima.

Review Cycle Type: Full Review

A Protocol involving Section III-D-1 was discussed, including the RG2 risks involved. A motion was made to return the protocol for modifications and seconded. Approved: 9, Opposed: 0, Abstain: 0

C. **Protocol ID:** 25-07-113

Principal Investigator: Ouellet, Hugues

Title: Use of Mycobacterium marinum as a surrogate to study the pathogenesis of M. tuberculosis under BSL-2 containment

Review Type: FULLBOARD

Primary Reviewer(s): Das, Siddhartha

Secondary Reviewer(s): Baird, Anthony; Arriaga, Berenice; Vines, Charlotte, Sharifan, Hamidreza; Weich, Erin; Joseph, Elaine; Ibarra-Mejia, Gabriel; Dupre, Jo Anne; Llano, Manuel; Das, Siddhartha; Piramadathottathil Venu, Shonima.

Review Cycle Type: Full Review

A Protocol involving Section III-D-1, III-D-2, III-F-6, and Appendix C-II was discussed, including the RG2 risks involved. A motion was made to approve the protocol with conditions and seconded. Approved: 9, Opposed: 0, Abstain: 0

A voting member of the committee left the meeting at 11:12 A.M. Quorum was updated to 8 of 13 voting members present.

6. Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding the Following Matters

1. **Special discussion: An investigator wants to have a high school student in the lab to assist with a project:**
The committee reviewed existing policies, and documentation provided by the PI. It was noted that minors are restricted from handling hazardous materials or working in BSL2 laboratories. They further discussed the risks and liability associated with allowing minors to perform lab work, including cognitive development and emergency response. The committee decided to deny the request for hands-on lab work for the underage student and recommended the PI contact the UTEP Youth Support Services Manager to assist with finding an approved program for the student.
2. The BSO informed the committee about the new hazard screening inspection process, which has improved laboratory safety by identifying unauthorized chemicals and radioactive materials during inspections. The new inspection form and process, which includes chemical inventory and has led to safer laboratories by detecting previously unreported hazardous materials.
3. The committee discussed the disposal processes and concerns around ethidium bromide agarose gels. The BSO communicated that EH&S is planning to invite the hazardous waste manager to evaluate how the materials are being disposed of currently, with plans to discuss this issue further at a future convened IBC meeting.

A voting member of the committee left the meeting at 11:31 A.M. Quorum was updated to 7 of 13 voting members present.

A voting member of the committee rejoined the meeting at 11:34 A.M. Quorum was updated to 8 of 13 voting members present.

4. The committee discussed the IBC charter review process and determined that IBC administration would make updates to present to the committee for a discussion and vote on proposed changes.

7. Panel Business:

1. Reviewers planning to attend the May 22, 2026, meeting were asked to inform Gruszka, Dennis.

8. Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:38 A.M.

9. A list of the Protocols and Amendments approved since the last meeting and reports reviewed is below.

- A. **Title:** Animal Model Studies for Chagas Disease Pathogenesis and Immunotherapeutic Development
right corner
Reference Number: 25-11-132

Submission Type: New
Review Type: Full Board
Action: Approved

- B. **Title:** Molecular and Cellular Studies of Trypanosoma cruzi Infection and Host–Parasite Interactions
Reference Number: 25-11-131
Submission Type: New
Review Type: Full Board
Action: Approved
- C. **Title:** Use of Second-Generation Lentiviral Packaging System for Gene Delivery in Pancreatic Cancer Cells
Reference Number: 26-01-152
Submission Type: New
Review Type: Full Board
Action: Approved
- D. **Title:** Roles of FGF21 in PNPLA3(I148M)-Driven MAFLD, MASH, Hepatic Fibrosis, and HCC Susceptibility: Mechanistic Studies in Mouse Models
Reference Number: 26-01-157
Submission Type: New
Review Type: Full Board
Action: Approved