University of Nebraska Medical Center
BREAKTHROUGHS FOR LIFE.

INSTITUTIONAL BIOSAFETY COMMITTEE
IBC MEETING MINUTES
February 12, 2026

MEMBERS PRESENT: JoEllyn McMillan - Chair, Pete Iwen – Vice Chair, Jim Kee, Jenna McKenzie, Jim Talmadge, Eric Bradley, Micah Schott, Rick Starlin, Mimi McCann, Noel Johnson, Ryan Duden, and Paul Denton

NON-VOTING ALTERNATE MEMBERS PRESENT: Mackenzie Conrin, Sue Logsdon, Jared Evans, and Makayla Walker.

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF PRESENT: Jackie Hollinger

GUESTS PRESENT: Stephen Asante-Adde

Dr. McMillan opened the meeting at 2:31pm

A. Review and Acceptance of IBC Minutes

The IBC voted (12 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstention) to accept January 8, 2026 minutes.

B. Information, Education and Policy Items

- Commercial studies billing to go into effect March 1st.

C. Special Notification/Review

none

D. Incident and Event Reports Special Notification and/or Review Approved

none

E. IBC Initial Research Proposals and/or Previously Tabled

1) **IBC#:** 26-01-001-BL3
PI: Broadhurst, Jana
Title: Hemagglutination and hemagglutination inhibition assay to quantify neutralizing antibodies to influenza A viruses in human blood
Biohazardous Agents: Chicken tissues/cells, influenza viruses (highly pathogenic), influenza viruses (not highly pathogenic), porcine cells/tissues
Applicable NIH Guidelines: Exempt
Summary: This protocol describes work to correlate antibody binding data from a bead-based influenza antibody capture assay (IBC assay) with functional antibody activity measured by the hemagglutination inhibition (HAI) assay.

Committee Recommendation: Can inactivated virus be used instead? If not, what is the justification for using live virus. Additional details on transportation, PPE, and practices are needed.
Training: Training is complete and up to date.
Motion: Tabled
Vote Counts: 12-0-0

2) **IBC#:** 26-01-002-ABL1
PI: Ahodantin, James
Title: Tolerogenic Plasmacytoid Dendritic Cells in Autoimmune Hepatitis
Biohazardous Agents: Adeno-associated virus, murine primary cells
Applicable NIH Guidelines: III-D-4-a
Summary: This work evaluates the cellular and molecular mechanisms of autoimmune hepatitis. Animal models will be used to assess the role of CD4+ T-cell activation in this response. OVA will be expressed in mice using AAV for T-cell activation.
Committee Recommendation: List catalog or item numbers for AAV and describe the gene and function(s) of OVA. Select the option for red bin waste. In Section III, change designation to ABL1 and select ABL1 PPE in Section III. Add additional IACUC numbers in use.
Training: Training is complete and up to date.
Motion: Conditionally Approved
Vote Counts: 12-0-0

3) **IBC#:** 26-01-003-ABL2
PI: Choi, Seoung
Title: Development of Gallium-Based Antimicrobials for Pathogenic Bacteria and Target Identification
Biohazardous Agents: *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* attenuated strain, *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*
Applicable NIH Guidelines: Exempt
Summary: This protocol describes studies to develop gallium-based antimicrobial agents. The effectiveness of the antimicrobials will be tested against several common bacterial pathogens.
Committee Recommendation: Revise Section II.1 to indicate that *Neisseria* culture will be transported to the animal facility (the other pathogens not used in animals). Uncheck “other” 70% ethanol in Section II.3,
Training: Training is complete and up to date.
Motion: Conditionally Approved
Vote Counts: 12-0-0

F. IBC Change in Protocol

4) **IBC#:** 24-07-022-BL1
PI: Broadhurst, Jana
Title: Generation of synthetic control material for molecular infectious disease assays
Biohazardous Agents: *Escherichia coli* K-12, plasmid
Applicable NIH Guidelines: III-D-2-a
Summary: This protocol describes studies to create libraries of synthetic control material for pathogen detection to be used in molecular infectious disease assays. Sequences

homologous to a single gene region from each pathogen will be identified and synthetic double stranded DNA material created using IDT gBlocks. The requested change is to add genes for Marburg, Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF), and Lassa viruses.
Committee Recommendation: Section II.1, add a statement to indicate that there are no plans to validate with viable virus in-house. Section II.2.C, , add the genes for the new viruses to the provided table.
Training: One individual needs to complete training before approval.
Motion: Conditionally Approved
Vote Counts: 12-0-0

G. IBC Continuing Review Active Research

5) **IBC#:** 14-09-016-ABL2
PI: Nasser, Wasim
Title: 1.MUC4 mucin in the pathogenesis of breast cancer 2. Prevention of Brain metastasis in Breast Cancer 3.Molecular Mechanisms of Medulloblastoma 4: Combination therapy for glioblastoma; Connectivity mapping identified novel combination therapy for glioblastoma5: Laser interstitial therapy; Design of Targeted Photosensitizing Nanoparticles for Laser in Glioblastoma
Biohazardous Agents: Adenoviral vectors, human cell line/cells/tissues, lentiviral vector, miRNA micro, oncogene, plasmid, retroviral vector
Applicable NIH Guidelines: III-D-1-a; III-D-3-a; III-d-4-a
Summary: Gene modification in breast cancer, medulloblastoma, and glioblastoma cells. Looking at metastasis, new treatments, treatment responses, gene expression, etc. Agents include miRNA, Murine cells, plasmid, adenoviral vectors, Human cells, Lentiviral vectors, and Retroviral vectors. Some gene targets are oncogenes. The change request is to add murine cells, requested by an IACUC review.
Committee Recommendation: none
Training: All training is complete and up to date.
Motion: Approved
Vote Counts: 12-0-0

6) **IBC#:** 25-01-003-BL2
PI: Zabad, Rana
Title: A Phase 1, Open-label Study to Evaluate the Safety and Clinical Activity of Azercabtagene Zapreleucel in Participants with B-cell Mediated Autoimmune Disorders
Biohazardous Agents: Adeno-associated virus, human cell line/cells/tissues
Applicable NIH Guidelines: III-C-1
Summary: Azer-cel is an allogeneic anti-human-CD19 CAR T product derived from qualified donor T-cells that have been genetically edited to remove the expression of the endogenous T-cell receptor (TCR) to significantly reduce the possibility of development of graft-versus-host disease (GvHD) when it is administered to human leukocyte antigen (HLA) mismatched patients with B-mediated autoimmune disorders. The change request is for the PI and other personnel.
Committee Recommendation: Section I.4 – add location where the manipulations of post treatment samples occur. Section II.2.B - add a statement that identifies what testing is done or measures that will be taken to ensure the product is free from donor derived microorganisms (mycoplasma, viruses, bacteria, etc.). Section II.2.D - add a sentence to indicate whether or not post treatment samples will be stored. If storage will occur, include

the location of storage here and in Section I.4. Section II.3.A - identify the "appropriate disinfector/sanitizer" that will be used. Section II.5 - add a statement that persons performing the shipping will have up-to-date training.
Training: Training is complete and up to date.
Motion: Conditionally Approved
Vote Counts: 12-0-0

7) **IBC#:** 22-02-005-BL3
PI: Santarpia, Joshua
Title: Protocol for Conducting Research with Hazardous Biological Aerosols
Biohazardous Agents: Human cell line/cells/tissues, SARS-CoV-2, Sin Nombre Virus, Vero cells (African Green Monkey Kidney)
Applicable NIH Guidelines: Exempt
Summary: This protocol studies the generation, measurement, inactivation and effectiveness of PPE for bioaerosols. SARS-Cov-2 and Sin Nombre virus are used. The change request is for the addition of Sin Nombre Virus.
Committee Recommendation: Remove “reputable entity” that performs fit-testing, as UNMC employee health will do this.
Training: All training is complete and up to date.
Motion: Approve
Vote Counts: 12-0-0

8) **IBC#:** 15-06-014-ABL2
PI: Li, Yulong
Title: Cardiac sympathetic and parasympathetic alterations and cardiac dysfunction in heart failure.
Biohazardous Agents: Adeno-associated virus, adenoviral vectors, human cell line/cells/tissues, lentiviral vector, shRNA short hairpin
Applicable NIH Guidelines: III-D-1, III-D-3
Summary: This project examines how changes in sympathetic and parasympathetic nerve activity contribute to autonomic dysfunction, arrhythmias, and cardiac failure in chronic heart failure (CHF). They will also evaluate gene therapy, optogenetics, and engineered stem cell-based cardiac patches in the CHF rat models to restore autonomic balance and improve cardiac function.
Committee Recommendation: Ensure that information provided aligns with approved and active IACUC protocols.
Training: All training is complete and up to date.
Motion: Conditionally Approved
Vote Counts: 12-0-0

9) **IBC#:** 14-09-014-BL2
PI: Rowen, Donald
Title: Action of Antimicrobial Peptides against *Pseudomonas*; Characterization of the Role of mexT in Resistance to DASamp2; Characterization of the Role of PA5189 of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* in Resistance to an Antimicrobial Peptide; Characterization of a *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* mutant that is resistant to Antimicrobial Peptides; Investigation of the Role of mexT of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* in Resistance to an Antimicrobial Peptide; Testing the impact of a pmrB mutation on antimicrobial peptide resistance in the bacterium *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*; Investigation of the role of the PA5189 protein in *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*; Examination of the Effect of Mutations in the PA5189 and pmrB genes of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*

Biohazardous Agents: *Escherichia coli* K-12, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, plasmid
Applicable NIH Guidelines: III-D-2-a
Summary: Testing antimicrobial peptides (AMP) against *P. aeruginosa* to determine the mechanism of action and gene targets. Transposon mutagenesis is used to generate mutant strains of *P. aeruginosa* that are then tested for higher or lower resistance to the antimicrobial peptide. They will then knock out the gene found through homologous recombination, as well as using constructed plasmids containing the mutated genes. They are also testing if the mutations affect sensitivity to other antibiotics.
Committee Recommendation: Asked to update Section II.5 with information on shipping biological materials.
Training: One individual needs to complete training.
Motion: Conditionally Approved
Vote Counts: 12-0-0

10) **IBC#:** 07-12-028-ABL2
PI: Band, Vimla
Title: Mechanisms of epithelial cell transformation
Biohazardous Agents: Adenoviral vectors, Human cell line/cells/tissues, murine cell line, lentiviral vectors, miRNA micro, plasmid, retroviral vector, shRNA short hairpin, siRNA
Applicable NIH Guidelines: III-D-1-a, III-D-3-a, III-D-4-a
Summary: This protocol describes studies to assess the pathways of conversion from normal epithelial cells to cancerous cells. Various proteins will be examined using plasmid, shRNA, siRNA, miRNA and adenoviral, lentiviral and retroviral vector expression systems in murine and human cell lines. Cell lines transduced using retroviral and lentiviral expression of ECD or Ada3 will be injected into mice to determine tumor formation and growth.
Committee Recommendation: none
Training: All training is complete and up to date.
Motion: Approve
Vote Counts: 12-0-0

11) **IBC#:** 16-10-022-BL2
PI: Conda Sheridan, Martin
Title: Evaluation of small molecules, peptides, and peptide amphiphiles as broad-spectrum antimicrobial agents. Evaluation of new anti-chlamydial agents.
Biohazardous Agents: *Chlamydia trachomatis*, *Escherichia coli* K-12, *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Staphylococcus aureus* (not vancomycin-resistant)
Applicable NIH Guidelines: Exempt
Summary: This protocol describes studies to evaluate the antibacterial activity of peptides, small molecules, and nanoparticles. Various bacteria will be used as test materials.
Committee Recommendation: A lab inspection is needed. Section II.4 Edit the descriptions of handling of liquid and solid waste under their respective questions for clarity. Move the information on physical barriers for containment to Section II.6 under "Additional Safety Practices" and remove the statement about BSL3 work from Section II.6. Indicate that solid waste will be transported off site in red biohazard container for final decontamination.
Training: All training is complete and current.
Motion: Conditionally Approved
Vote Counts: 12-0-0

12) **IBC#:** 23-01-001-BL2
PI: Klute, Kelsey

Title: A Phase 2, Randomized, Open-Label, Controlled Study to Evaluate the Efficacy and Safety of Ampligen® in Combination with Standard of Care (SOC) versus SOC Alone Following First-Line Therapy in Subjects with Locally Advanced Pancreatic Adenocarcinoma
Biohazardous Agents: Human cell line/cells/tissues
Applicable NIH Guidelines: III-C-1
Summary: This is a continuing review of an active BSL2 protocol with no changes requested. . This is a Phase 2 (proof of concept) randomized, open label, controlled, parallel arm study to compare the safety and efficacy of TLR3 agonist (poly I:C; a dsRNA molecule) treatment combined with standard of care (SOC) versus SOC alone for subjects with locally advanced pancreatic adenocarcinoma.
Committee Recommendation: None
Training: All training is complete and up to date
Motion: Approve
Vote Counts: 12-0-0

13) **IBC#:** 24-07-023-BL2
PI: Woods, Nick
Title: Evaluation of genetic variables associated with cancer.
Biohazardous Agents: Lentiviral vector
Applicable NIH Guidelines: III-D-1-a, III-D-3-a
Summary: This study investigates molecular subtypes of pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma. They will use a targeted protein-labeling approach to identify transcription factors and epigenetic modifiers at specific genomic regions to better understand how subtype-specific gene programs are controlled.
Committee Recommendation: Ensure that all personnel are up to date on training.
Training: All training is complete and up to date (2/27/2026).
Motion: Conditionally Approved
Vote Counts: 12-0-0

There being no further business, Dr. McMillan adjourned the meeting at 3:22pm

Respectfully Submitted,

JoEllyn McMillan, PhD
Chair, IBC
JM

ADDENDUM
February 12, 2026
IBC REVIEW LETTER/EMAIL TO INVESTIGATORS

IBC #	Date of Letter/Email
26-01-001-Pending	02-13-2026
26-01-002-Pending	02-13-2026
26-01-003-Pending	02-13-2026
24-07-022-BL1	02-13-2026
14-09-016-ABL2	02-13-2026
25-01-003-BL2	02-13-2026
22-02-005-BL3	02-13-2026
15-06-014-ABL2	02-13-2026
14-09-014-BL2	03-03-2026
07-12-028-ABL2	02-13-2026
16-10-022-BL2	02-13-2026
23-01-001-BL2	02-13-2026
24-07-023-BL2	02-13-2026