



Institutional Biosafety Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: October 31, 2025
Time: 3:00 pm
Location: Via Zoom
Attendees: Tim Allen, Chairperson
Yuan Liu, Chemistry
Amita Quadros, Community Member
Tamece Knowles, EH&S Director
Nazira El-Hage, College of Medicine
Horatiu Vinerean, Attending Veterinarian
Matthew DeGennaro, Biology
*Angel Rayo, Research Integrity

*** Ex Officio (Non-Voting)**

Proceedings: Dr. Tim Allen, IBC Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 3:02 pm

Acceptance of Agenda

- The committee accepted the agenda for the meeting.

Announcements

N/A

Approval of Minutes

- The minutes from the August 29, 2025, meeting were approved.
Motion: A motion was made to **approve**.
Action: The minutes were approved.
Vote: Yes – 5, No – 0, Abstain – 0, Conflict – 0

Dr. Horatiu Vinerean and Amita Quadros joined the meeting at 3:09 pm.

New Protocols

1. Reference# 300592: “Cellular Transformation, Programmed Cell Death, and Extrusion Pathways in Airway Mucosal Immunity.” submitted by [REDACTED]

- a. Source organism: *Homo Sapiens*, Human; *Aequorea Victoria*, Jellyfish; *Discosoma spp*, Sea Anemone; *Macaca fascicularis*, Cynomolgus macaque. Appendix B. II. Risk Group 2 (RG2).
- b. To be expressed in: *Homo Sapiens*, Human. Appendix B. I. Risk Group 1 (RG1).
- c. Inserted DNA Sequence: Blue fluorescent protein (BFP), Green fluorescent protein (GFP), Red fluorescent protein (RFP), mCherry (a mCherry is a monomeric red fluorescent protein), Bcl-2-inhibiting Killer (Bik, apoptosis inducer), Bcl-2 (anti-apoptotic protein), Bcl-2 modifying factor (Bmf), Microtubule-associated proteins 1A/1B light chain 3B (MAP LC3B, autophagy associated protein).
- d. Vectors: AdBik, Admutant Bik, and AdBmf Adenoviral vector (AV) Constructs prepared in the previous lab at LRR. These are adenoviral particles made on a human Adenovirus Type5 (dE1/E3) backbone under the CMV promoter with a reporter GFP tagged. Viral preps are stored in DMEM with 2% BSA and 2.5% Glycerol. pCDNA3-Bcl-2; pCDNA3-GFP, pBFP-Mito, pBFP-KDEL, pmCherry-Sec61B, pGFP-Sec61B, and pmCherryLC3B plasmids from Addgene see attached details. shRNA (short-hairpin RNA) retroviral plasmids targeting Bcl-2 (pGFP-VRSshBCL-2 and pGFP-VRSshCTRL), NFKBIZ (Cat#: TG311184, pRFP-C-RS with RFP tag, see attached details), MTFP1, and other proteins of target will be purchased from Origene Biotechnologies. Additionally, to supplement the shRNA studies, siRNA (small interfering RNA) oligonucleotides for each of these proteins and lncRNAs and controls will be purchased from either Origene, Addgene, Sigma Co, Santa Cruz Biotech, abmGood biotechnologies or IDT technologies etc., based on the availability. CRISPR-based overexpression or silencing constructs or viral particles will also be obtained from commercial vendors. For lentiviral particles, we will use LentiGIII-CMV-LASI-SV40-GFP-2A-Puro construct that will express high levels of lncRNA associated with ICAM-1 or LASI.
- e. Method of insertion: Electroporation and Transfection.
- f. Containment Conditions: [REDACTED].
- g. Citi Training: All individuals have completed the required CITI trainings.
- h. Applicable section of NIH guidelines: Section III-E: Expression of Any Gene

Appendix B-I Risk Group 1 (RG1) Agents

RG1 agents are not associated with disease in healthy adult humans.

Appendix G-II-B-3-a. Biological safety cabinets (Class I or II) or other appropriate personal protective or physical containment devices are used

- i. Section 2.5 – *College of Medicine* needs to be listed under Department.
- j. Section 2.8 – The committee recommends an administrator from the *college of medicine* be added to the section.
- k. Section 2.9 – Personnel needs to be added here.
- l. Section 3.1.1.4 – AWD number needs to be listed.
- m. Section 7.2 – Typo needs to be removed.
- n. Section 7.5 – Typo needs to be removed and human needs to be listed as RG2.
- o. Section 8.1 – The containment/decontamination SOP needs to be updated.

Motion: A motion was made to **approve** pending minor modifications.

Action: The protocol was **approved** pending modifications.

Vote: Yes – 7, No – 0, Abstain – 0, Conflict – 0

Revised Protocols

1. Reference# 300582: “Pathogenic Mechanisms of Pulmonary Disease and Lung Injury.” submitted by [REDACTED]

- a. Source organism: *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Pseudomonas*; *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, *Klebsiella*; *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Staphylococcus*; *Acinetobacter baumannii*, *Acinetobacter*; *Enterococcus faecium*, *Enterococcus*; *Enterobacter*, *Escherichia coli*. Appendix B. III. Risk Group 3 (RG3).
- b. To be expressed in: *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Pseudomonas*; *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, *Klebsiella*; *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Staphylococcus*; *Acinetobacter baumannii*, *Acinetobacter*; *Enterococcus faecium*, *Enterococcus*; *Enterobacter*, *Escherichia coli*. Appendix B. III. Risk Group 3 (RG3).
- c. Inserted DNA Sequence: n/a.
- d. Vectors: We are knocking out bacterial genes and not introducing new foreign genes. We use two plasmids to generate the genetic ablation but will cure the bacteria by taking out the plasmids after the successful gene knockout is confirmed. The two plasmids are pCasKP and pSGKP that were purchased from Addgenes.
- e. Method of insertion: Electroporation.
- f. Containment Conditions: [REDACTED].
- g. Citi Training: All individuals have completed the required CITI trainings.
- h. Applicable section of NIH guidelines: Section III-D-2: Cloning of DNA from Risk Group 2 - 4

Appendix B-III Risk Group 3 (RG3) Agents

Agents that are associated with serious or lethal human disease for which preventive or therapeutic interventions may be available.

Appendix G-II-B-3-a-(1). Procedures with a high potential for creating aerosols are conducted. Including inoculation of animals.

- i. Section 2.4 – Project title needs to be edited as it is very similar to another PI’s IBC protocol title.
- j. Section 2.8 – The committee recommends an administrator from CTS be added to the section.
- k. Section 2.9 – Personnel responsibilities need to be edited to be more specific.
- l. Section 3.1.1.4 – AWD number needs to be listed.
- m. Section 3.6 – The committee request the PI justify how he intends to work with the listed pathogens as there are no BSL3 facilities in FIU. Furthermore, the PI needs to list CRISPR sequences and potential off-target effects should be screened.
- n. Section 4.8 – The committee agreed *No* should be selected here.
- o. Section 5.2 – The committee requests clarification on what activities will be done in the room numbers listed in the section. Also, to list the BSL2 rooms in the vivarium.
- p. Section 6.5 – BSL2 approval memo needs to include the room numbers in the third floor.
- q. Section 7.2 – Type in the section needs to be corrected.
- r. Section 7.5 – *Mice* should be listed in the section.
- s. Section 7.6 – *BSL2* should be listed in the section.
- t. Section 8.1 – The containment/decontamination SOP needs to be updated to include the following: N-95 use, who and how will the infected animals will be handled and disposed of, containment of aerosolization in the BSC.
- u. Section 8.2.1.1 – The BSC in the BSL2 rooms in the vivarium needs to be listed here.
- v. Section 8.2.3.1 – The committee request the PI confirm there are no autoclaves in the vivarium.

Motion: A motion was made to **table** the protocol and return for modification.

Action: The protocol was **tabled**.

Vote: Yes - 5, No - 0, Abstain - 0, Conflict - 0

Amended Protocols

N/A

Renewed Protocols

N/A

Administrative Business

N/A

Meeting adjourned at 4:20 pm.