INSTITUTIONAL BIOSAFETY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES

Chair: M.A. Amalaradjou
Meeting Time: 1:30 PM

December 11, 2025
Web Conference

Attendance Record

Voting Members	Role / Expertise	Status	Comments
Amalaradjou, Mary Anne	*IBC Chair*	Present	
Brennan, James	*Animal Care Services*	Absent	
Cavallaro, David	*BSO, Voting NIH Contact*	Present	
Chen, Yupeng	*Biomedical Engineering*	Present	Joined 2:14 pm
Chidambaram, Ramaswamy	*Animal Expert*	Present	
Heyduk, Karolina	*Plant Expert*	Present	
Macierowski, Bobbie	*Local Non-Affiliated Member*	Present	
Maltz-Matyschsyk, Michele	*Vice Chair, Molecular and Cell Biology*	Present	
Miller, Robert	*Local Non-Affiliated Member*	Present	Joined 1:59 pm
Wunder, Elsio	*Pathobiology*	Present	Joined 2:00 pm
Wright, Dennis	*Pharmaceutical Sciences*	Present	
Non-Voting Members			
Delage, Danielle	*IBC Program Director* *NIH Contact*	Present	
Lewchik, Brent	*EHS Director*	Present	
Lucas, Melanie	*RICS Director–Animal Research & Safety*	Present	

The IBC has eleven voting members. A minimum of five voting members are required to conduct business. Ten voting members were present for the call to order, meeting quorum.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:37 PM and opened with the confidentiality statement.

I. Confidentiality Statement:

Members were reminded that all information provided in writing or discussed at this meeting may be sensitive or proprietary and must be considered confidential. In the interest of transparency, IBC meetings remain open to the public whenever possible. However, meetings may be closed to review confidential or sensitive information. Proprietary or private information will not be included in meeting minutes whenever possible, and may be redacted as necessary, prior to public release.

II. Conflict of Interest:

The committee is reminded that no IBC member may be involved in the review or approval of a project for which there are real or perceived direct financial interests, *except to provide information if requested during the review portion of the meeting*. Potential conflicts of interest must be disclosed.

As a reminder, when conflicts are declared, that member is recused from committee discussion and voting portions of the review for that submission.

At this time, members are asked to declare potential real or perceived conflicts of interest with submissions on the agenda.

No conflicts declared.

III. Announcements:

None

IV. Review of Minutes:

Committee members were given the opportunity to review the proposed minutes from the November 6, 2025 meeting.

The November minutes required revisions as identified during discussion. Approval was deferred, and the updated version will be presented at the January meeting.

V. Chair Report:

The Chair provided a report on administrative actions taken since the last meeting.

Submission	PI Name	Committee Action	Status
Renewal #263R2	Jianjun Sun	Approved as Written on 11/06/2025	Approval Sent
Renewal #274R2	Rahul Kanadia	Approved with Conditions on 11/06/2025	Conditions Met – Approved

VI. Biosafety Officer Report:

Laboratory audits are conducted periodically to assess facilities and laboratory practices to ensure compliance. The BSO presented a summary of recent biosafety audits to the committee.

Audit Report:

- In November, seventeen biosafety audits were conducted. Fifteen had no findings. One audit identified an overdue biological inventory submission, and two laboratories had action items related to IBC registrations pending for greater than six months.
- Biosafety will follow up with laboratories to ensure completion of outstanding action items.

VII. Review of NIH Covered Experiments

Review #1	
PI Name	David Goldhamer
Submission	Renewal #61R3P
Title	Development and Disease of the Musculoskeletal System
Project Overview	
Project Description	There are four ongoing projects in the lab. Two are focused on the disease fibrodysplasia ossificans progressiva (FOP) and two are looking at muscle stem cells/satellite cells. The FOP projects use Cre/loxP recombination system transgenic rodent models of the disease to investigate the pathological basis of the disease, to test a strategy to treat the disease and to identify and better understand the biology of the cells responsible for the disease. The main target of the studies is a cell surface receptor in fibro/adipogenic progenitors (FAPs), as a candidate cell type responsible for heterotopic ossification (HO). The main goal of the project is to better understand how the receptor mutation in FAPs changes their developmental potential so that they now form bone when stimulated by muscle injury. They are also testing the efficacy of a monoclonal antibody against the bone morphogenetic proteins (BMP) in reducing the incidence and severity of the disease. Tissue is collected for histology, or to isolate cells by flow cytometry. Harvested cells are typically grown in cell culture and then processed for gene or protein expression, RNA-seq, transplantation into SCID rodents or for differentiation studies followed by immunohistochemistry. For the stem cell projects, Cre/loxP recombination system knockout rodents are bred, with various Muscle Regulatory Factors (MRFs) gene targets. Muscle regeneration is induced and assessed by histological analysis. Satellite cells are isolated by flow cytometry from muscle tissue samples to determine a gene expression profile using RNA-seq. CRISPR/Cas9 methods are used with immortalized rodent muscle cells to eliminate potential DNA regulatory elements that were identified by bioinformatic analyses. Expression of MRF in cultured knockout cells is quantified by RT-PCR. The lab also seeks to identify new regulatory elements that control the expression of MRFs. This involves bioinformatic analyses to identify DNA regions of interest and then production of lacZ reporter constructs containing these regions to test their specificity in transgenic rodents.
Agent Name	*E. coli* K-12
Risk Group	RG1
Agent Characteristics	Non-pathogenic
rsNA Source Organism	*A. victoria,* Firefly, *E. coli K-12, S. pyogenes* (CRISPR), Rodent, and Human MRFs
Nature / Function of rsNA	Fluorescent reporters, plasmid propagation, cloning genes and expressing proteins, CRISPR gene editing systems, endogenous rodent genomic and cDNA, human MRFs, and cre-recombinase

Modifications	Transgenic rodents are produced by the Center for Genome Modification at UConn Health. For production of both knockout and transgenic rodents, standard cloning procedures that utilize common vectors are used, such as pBluescript. Plasmids are introduced into *E. coli* K-12 strains for production of plasmid DNA for microinjection (transgenic rodents) or electroporation into embryonic stem cells (knockouts).
Experimental Manipulations	*E. coli* K-12 host-vector systems, Rodent Cells and Tissues, Cardiotoxin, Various Rodent Animal Models (wild-type, transgenic, and KO)
Risk Assessment & Discussion	
Engineering Controls	BSC, Chemical Fume Hood
PPE	Requested – PI to clarify
Training & Expertise	PI must complete NIH Guidelines Retraining
Containment & Special Practices	BSL-1 and ABSL-1 containment noted as appropriate
NIH Classifications	III-D-4, III-E-3, III-E, III-F
Risk Assessment & Primary Review Comments	The lab points out the risk of using tamoxifen as part of the mutations using Cre/loxP systems and utilizes the chemical isolation suite in the vivarium. The generation of plasmids, use of transgenic rodents and genetic analysis techniques are low risk.
IBC Motion & Vote	
Committee Discussion	BSO confirmed the presence of appropriate PPE in the lab and vivarium, although this was not reflected in the registration. The PI will be asked to update the project form to include these details. It was noted that the latest biosafety audit report is pending resolution. The PI must complete NIH Guidelines Retraining prior to final approval of this renewal.
Motion	A motion was made to approve registration renewal 61R3P, under the condition that the PI completes NIH Guidelines Retraining, and requested minor revisions be submitted. The motion was seconded. The committee voted with 10 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions. MOTION CARRIED
Committee Action	The committee voted to approve registration renewal 61R3P with conditions, for a three-year term.

VIII. Old Business:

None

IX. New Business:

NIH Regional Listening Session on Efforts to Modernize and Strengthen Biosafety Oversight

X. Items from the Floor:

None

No public comments to record.

Chair made a motion to convene in Executive Session to discuss administrative matters not subject to the NIH Guidelines, which may be confidential in nature. Motion received a second. The committee voted with 10 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions. MOTION PASSED.

The committee entered executive session at 2:00 PM.

Next Meeting: January 8, 2025 at 1:30 PM