TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY.
Division of Research

Institutional Biosafety Committee
Meeting Minutes

DATE: August 18, 2026
TIME: 1:00 PM
LOCATION: JCK 662

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1. Call to Order

The meeting for the Texas State University Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) - was called to order by the Chair at 1:00 PM. This meeting was open to the public.

MEETING ATTENDANCE:

Voting members present: 7 (BSO alternate vote will not count)
Voting members required for quorum: 5

Voting IBC Members Present:

☒ Dr. Hong -Gu Kang, IBC Chair
☒Elsie Romano, BSO
☒Smitha Rayadurg, BSO Alternate
☐Dr. Michelle Lane
☒Dr. Sean Kerwin
☐Dr. Matthew McAllister
☒Dr. Cesar Rosales-Nieto
☒Brigid Lednicky, Community Member
☒Monty Gomez, Community Member (Zoom)

Ex Officios:

☒Monica Gonzales
☒Sean Rubino
☐Dr. Michael Blanda

Guests Present:

Dr. Ryan Peterson, Principal Investigator
Dr. Jason Ramage, Research Integrity AVP

2. New Business/Announcements

None

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3. Conflict of Interest Disclosures

Reminders to members to recuse themselves during discussion and voting in which they have a Conflict of Interest. Members Sean Kerwin was identified to have a conflict of Interest as a COPI and Cesar Rosales-Nieto was identified having a conflict of interest as a PI on a protocol reviewed.

4. Approval of prior minutes

January 20, 2026 minutes were shared with committee during meeting.

Motion: approved and seconded
Votes: 6 Favor; 0 Against; 0 Abstain; 0 Recuse

5. Protocol Reviews/Approval

Protocol #	9770
Submission Type	Amendment
PI Name	Ryan Peterson
Department	Chemistry & Biochemistry
Section (s) of NIH Guidelines	III-D-2-a
Summary	*NIH funded. Confirmed using knockout so this is a gain of loss not gain of function.* *Subcommittee created: Dr. Kang, Dr. Rayadurg,, Dr. Rosales, Dr. Kerwin to review revised protocol prior to approval.* This project seeks to define the nutritional requirements of [redacted] which is the fungal pathogen associated with [redacted] The goal of this protocol is to try to knockout genes or create recombinant proteins of genes in [redacted] to gain insight in to protein function.
Characteristics of Agent(s) or Materials	[redacted] – Pathogenic to bats not humans or non-

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	bats treated as BSL 2 containment due to its high ecological severity **agrobacterium tumefaciens AGL-1-** plant pathogens not pathogenic to humans or animals; regulated as a plant pathogen **DH5 alpha E. coli** – nonpathogenic low risk
Risk Assessment	Low personnel risk but concerns of environmental/ecological risk due to P. destructans. No agent will be grown in volumes of 10L or more or select agents used. Modifications will utilize CRISPR related technologies. No RNA will be expressed or replicated in a living cell. EHSREM expressed concerns regarding meeting BSL 2 containment requirements in one of the lab spaces being proposed for work. Only one lab space is approved for BSL 2 work at this time. PI has currently outgrown a lab space and is working with EHSREM as well as department chair to locate a larger lab.
Training & Expertise of Research Personnel	BSL 2 training recommended
Actions Required	PI revise application for consistency and clarification of specific gene editing is required as currently written it is very broad. EHSREM to ensure BSL 2 concerns are addressed to complete work safely and provide list of how to move forward to PI.
Motion	Approved upon verification of subcommittee Work not to proceed until EHSREM clearance is provided
6 Favor; 0 Against; 0 Abstain; 0 Recuse	

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Protocol #	10803
Submission Type	Initial
PI Name	Ryan Peterson
Department	Chemistry & Biochemistry
Section (s) of NIH Guidelines	III-D-2-a
Summary	This protocol describes the propagation of agriculturally relevant microbes from publicly available collections and their ability to make/resist bioactive chemical molecules. Recombinant nucleic acids may be used knockout specific genes of interest. The goal of this research is to understand how chemical small molecules are made by fungi/oomycete species and how they can resist exposure to chemical small molecules
Characteristics of Agent(s) or Materials	[redacted] If Candida albicans strain SC5314 is viable, this should be treated as Risk Group 2 (RG-2) because it was isolated from a clinical patient.
Risk Assessment	Sponsor indicated USDA permit not required per PI EHSREM expressed concerns regarding meeting BSL 2 containment requirements. PI has currently outgrown a lab space and is working with EHSREM as well as department chair to locate a larger lab microbe strains isolated from infected plants

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	Aspergillus candidus Strains NRRL 131 and 4646 from the USDA-ARS Culture collection Botrytis cinerea strain NRRL 1650 Class 1 Ooomycete strains from the USDA-ARS Culture collection NRRL 64137 and 64978 E.coli for plasmid propagation are DH5 alpha cells. No viral vectors will be used in this study. appropriate eye protection to be worn when performing procedures that have the potential to generate aerosols or splashes should be non-vented, sealed safety goggles.
Training & Expertise of Research Personnel	BSL-2 Training
Actions Required	USDA permit may be required; Dr. Kang to verify with USDA contact. If required PI to work with EHREM to obtain. PI correct typos PI to clarify what is he breaking application only listed tool used. EHSREM to ensure BSL 2 concerns are addressed to complete work safely and provide list of how to move forward to PI. Specify specific gene of interest
Motion	Approve with revisions
5 Favor; 0 Against; 0 Abstain; 1 Recuse	

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Protocol #	9756
Submission Type	Amendment
PI Name	Cesar Rosales-Nieto
Department	Agriculture
Section (s) of NIH Guidelines	N/A
Summary	Samples will be analyzed in the laboratory at Texas State University to determine the circulating concentration of progesterone and estradiol. Instructional: Serum samples were collected from sheep (dams and offsprings) between 2017 and 2018. Adrenal gland samples from sheep at different ages were collected by the research group of Prof. Vasantha Padmanabhan. Tissue samples will be prepared in paraffin and sectioned at 5 µm for biomarker analysis. Specific gene expressions will be determined using qPCR. The purpose of the collaboration is to analyze the adrenal glands at TXST and publish the research outcomes with Prof. Padmanabhan.
Characteristics of Agent(s) or Materials	Sheep serum samples and unfixed adrenal glands
Risk Assessment	Animal tissues have potential to contain RG2 biological organisms. Discussed use of prions and zoological diseases. BSL 2 practices recommended
Training & Expertise of Research Personnel	BSL 2 training
Actions Required	PI to add sharp precautions to protocol
Motion	Approve with revisions
5 Favor; 0 Against; 0 Abstain; 1 Recuse	

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6. Administrative Activity Report

The report was presented for committee review. Since the previous meeting for the Texas State University IBC on January 20, 2026:

15 submissions were received by the Office of Research Integrity and Compliance for review by the IBC and processed by the Biosafety Program Staff and approved by the IBC Chair on behalf of the IBC. 3 of those did not require IBC oversight.

These submissions could include any of the following: a simple amendment (room change, personnel, etc.), a renewal application that does not change risks describing non-recombinant or exempt recombinant studies, administrative actions (including terminations and extensions), and annual reviews. Committee members are encouraged to review these submissions (not requiring full committee review) in Kuali.

7. *Inspection/Safety Program Updates*

None

8. *Other Business/Public Comments:*

None

9. *Adjournment*

The IBC meeting was adjourned at 2:30 PM

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