

**INSTITUTIONAL BIOSAFETY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

DATE: October 23, 2025

TIME: 3:02 PM

MEETING TYPE: Both in Person and Virtual

IBC Members in attendance:

	<i>Role</i>	<i>Area of Expertise</i>
Richard Laughlin, Ph.D.-Chair	Chair	Infectious disease/Microbiologist
R. Shane Creel	Scientist	Enterprise Risk Management
Michelle R. Garcia Ph.D.	Scientist	Animal, Agriculture, Molecular
Montamas Suntravat Ph.D.	Scientist	Medical Microbiology/Immunology
J. Charlie Cardenas	Non-scientist	Non-Affiliated/Community Member
Veronica Anconda-Contreras Ph.D.	Scientist	Insects, Agriculture

IBC Members not in attendance:

Cariann Galloway DVM	Scientist	Veterinary Medicine
Haeyoung Kim Ph.D.	Scientist	Molecular Biology/Genetics
Kunta Madhurabau Ph.D.	Scientist	Plant Science
Nathali (Juana) Pina Ed. D.	Non-Scientist	Non-Affiliated/Community Member
David Rosse B.S.	Non-Scientist	Non-Affiliated/Community Member

IBC Alternates not in attendance:

Randy DeYoung Ph.D.	Scientist	Animals, Wildlife, Molecular
Christopher Hearon Ph.D.	Scientist	Human Physiology
Fang He Ph.D.	Scientist	Genetics & Molecular Biology
Elda Sanchez Ph.D.	Scientist	Animal, Molecular
Greta Schuster Ph.D.	Scientist	Insects, Agriculture

Others Present at IBC Meeting:

Ronika Williams, M.S., M.S. Research Compliance Coordinator, Recording Secretary
Eutimio Alaniz, B.S. Research Compliance Coordinator

Voting members in attendance: 6

The presence of six members constitutes a quorum for IRB. With 6 Voting members present, Dr. Laughlin called the IRB meeting to order at 3:02pm.

Discussion:

- *Administrative approval of protocols:*
 - After calling the meeting to order, Dr. Laughlin discussed the implementation of administrative approval procedures for protocols previously documented in a paper format that are being transferred to Cayuse. These protocols undergo verification by

a designated reviewer to ensure consistency with the original documentation prior to entry into Cayuse. This process results in a reset of the protocol's expiration date, providing an incentive for digital submission.

- *NIH biosafety oversight update:*
 - Dr. Laughlin presented information regarding ongoing discussions at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) concerning the modernization and enhancement of biosafety oversight protocols. The NIH is working to establish harmonization between BMBL (Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories) standards, life sciences research guidelines, and additional federal regulatory frameworks. Modifications that are anticipated may include a reduction in the oversight requirements for specific research categories in non-biomedical research involving plants, agricultural animals, or certain microorganisms under the jurisdiction of alternative federal agencies such as the USDA or EPA, clinical research under FDA regulatory authority, research classified as low-risk, including Risk Group 1 agents, certain transgenic organisms, and specific expression plasmids. Implications for oversight of teaching laboratories were also mentioned, but clarification will be needed to fully understand the implications of these changes for teaching labs.
 - Stacy Pritt, Research Compliance Officer for TAMU System, serves on the National Academy of Sciences review board for this policy initiative and will provide subsequent technical updates as they become available. The primary objective across administrative departments is to reduce regulatory burden while ensuring policies remain current with scientific and technological advancements. Public engagement opportunities include open listening sessions and an input portal where researchers may submit comments. The implementation timeline encompasses several months of deliberation with anticipated policy changes to be introduced in the spring.
- *IBC Standard Operating Procedure Updates*
 - Dr. Laughlin discussed the TAMU System mandated requirement for IBC SOPs. While the table of contents has been established, and the SOPs will just be used to codify the existing IBC operational procedures, the organizational structure has been changed from the original draft. Section I and II were provided electronically to members, and feedback was requested. None of the members present declared any edits were needed. TAMUK's IBC SOPs are being derived and customized from previously published SOPs from within the TAMU System. Section I and II will be submitted for initial review early next week, followed by a system level evaluation.

Previous Minutes from September 18, 2025 IBC Meeting:

- Dr. Laughlin noted that in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order, formal voting procedures for meeting minutes are not required when all members have reviewed and concur with the accuracy of the documentation. The committee approved the previous meeting minutes without amendments or formal roll call.

Meeting conclusion and adjournment:

- Dr. Laughlin adjourned the meeting following confirmation that all agenda items had been addressed. He expressed appreciation for members' participation and indicated

that communication regarding the subsequent meeting would be distributed electronically, taking into consideration the upcoming holiday schedule.