TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY KINGSVILLE
RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Office of Research and Innovation
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INSTITUTIONAL BIOSAFETY COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

DATE: September 18, 2025
TIME: 3:04 PM
MEETING TYPE: Both in Person and Virtual

1. MEETING ATTENDANCE

a. Count of voting members present
   i. Eleven (11) members present.

b. Count of voting members required for quorum
   i. Five (5) members must be present.

c. Voting IBC Members Present
   i. Cariann Galloway - (Animal Expert)
   ii. David Rosse - (Local Non-Affiliated)
   iii. Fang He - (Other: Scientist, recombinant)
   iv. Haeyoung Kim - (Other: Scientist, recombinant)
   v. Juana N. Pina Saldivar - (Local Non-Affiliated, Non-Affiliated)
   vi. Madhurababu Kunta - (Plant Expert)
   vii. Michelle Garcia - (Animal Expert)
   viii. Montamas Suntravat - (Other: Scientist, recombinant)
   ix. Randall DeYoung - (Animal Expert)
   x. Richard C. Laughlin - (Chair)
   xi. Veronica Ancona-Contreras - (Plant Expert)

d. Non-Voting IBC Members Present
   i. No Non-Voting IBC members were present.

e. Office of Research and Innovation Staff Present:
   i. Eutimio Alaniz - (Non-Voting Contact)
   ii. Ronika Williams - (Non-Voting Contact)

f. Guests Present:
   i. No guest present at the meeting.

2. CALL TO ORDER:

a. Meeting was called to order at 3:04 PM

3. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST:

a. Dr. Haeyoung Kim has a conflict of interest with their registrations of IBC-00000017 and IBC-00000002 placed on the agenda for review. Dr. Kim was reminded of his conflict by

members and announced it himself that they will be recusing themselves once their protocol was up on the agenda.

i. IBC-00000017
   1. Dr. Kim recused themselves from the meeting at 4:10 PM
   2. Quorum now at ten (10)
   3. Dr. Kim returned to the meeting at 4:11 PM
   4. Quorum now at eleven (11)

ii. IBC-00000002
   1. Dr. Kim recused themselves from the meeting at 4:18 PM
   2. Quorum now at ten (10)
   3. Dr. Kim returned to the meeting at 4:20 PM
   4. Quorum now at eleven (11)

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

a. The Chair started off the announcements with introductions of those present at the meeting. After members and those present at the meeting gave introductions the Chair went over a sheet that contained the timeline of IBC operations to the members.

5. PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:

a. July 17, 2025
   i. The IBC reviewed the minutes from the July 17, 2025 meeting and approved them as is.

b. August 21, 2025
   i. The IBC reviewed the minutes from the August 21, 2025 meeting and approved them as is.
      a.

6. PROTOCOL REVIEWS

a. Registrations NOT containing work covered by the *NIH Guidelines*
   i. None.

b. Registrations containing work covered by the *NIH Guidelines*

Protocol #	IBC-00000019
Protocol Type	Initial Review
PI Name	Dr. Matthew Alexander
Project Title	Oily Sludge Biodegradation Using Commercial Oil-Degrading Bacterial Consortium
Training	Documentation is present that there has been a verification the PI and laboratory staff performing the research have been appropriately trained in the safe conduct of the research.
Summary of Proposed Research	The purpose of this biosafety protocol is to use commercially available bacterial consortia that have been developed by outside vendors for the purpose of open water oil spill biodegradation of petroleum liquids, most commonly crude oil. In my laboratory, these cultures will be used to test biodegradation of petroleum hydrocarbons in water in application environments different than open ocean oil spills, namely heavy oil sludge accumulated in refinery

	wastewater ponds. The bacterial consortia obtained from vendors will only be used if the vendor is able to provide an overview or list of the types of bacteria present in their consortia, along with a statement that their material does not contain any pathogenic microorganisms. In Dr. Alexander's laboratory, experiments will be conducted by culture methods such as Petri dish, Erlenmeyer (shake) flask and closed stirred fermenters, typically under aerobic conditions. An autoclave, available from the Environmental Engineering Department and located in EC 239, will be used for sterilizing media, glassware, and spent cultures prior to disposal. This protocol does not involve work with recombinant DNA nor with pathogenic organisms.
Section(s) of *NIH Guidelines*	III-F
Characteristics of Agent(s) or Material(s)	

#	Agent	Strain	BSL	RG	*In vivo*	Recombinant
1	*Alcanivorax dieselolei*	Custom kit. NOTE: strain ID not provided by Oppenheimer, as it is proprietary information.	1	1	No	No
2	*Bacillus firmus*	Custom kit. NOTE: strain ID not provided by Oppenheimer, as it is proprietary information.	1	1	No	No
3	*Bacillus spiralis*	Custom kit. NOTE: strain ID not provided by Oppenheimer, as it is proprietary information.	1	1	No	No
4	*Marinobacter aquaeolei*	Custom kit. NOTE: strain ID not provided by Oppenheimer, as it is proprietary information.	1	1	No	No
5	*Marinobacter hydrocarbonoclasticus*	Custom kit. NOTE: strain ID not provided by Oppenheimer, as it is proprietary information.	1	1	No	No
6	*Rikenella microfusus*	Custom kit. NOTE: strain ID not provided by Oppenheimer, as it is proprietary information.	1	1	No	No
7	*Saccharopolyspora gregorii*	Custom kit. NOTE: strain ID not provided by	1	1	No	No

		Oppenheimer, as it is proprietary information.				

Agent Sources

Agent #	Source
1	Commercial Vendor: Oppenheimer Biotechnology Inc
2	Commercial Vendor: Oppenheimer Biotechnology Inc
3	Commercial Vendor: Oppenheimer Biotechnology Inc
4	Commercial Vendor: Oppenheimer Biotechnology Inc
5	Commercial Vendor: Oppenheimer Biotechnology Inc
6	Commercial Vendor: Oppenheimer Biotechnology Inc
7	Commercial Vendor: Oppenheimer Biotechnology Inc

Recombinant Modifications

Agent #	Category / Description	Source RG
1 - 7	None	N/A

Vectors

#	Vector	Use with Agent #	Source
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Risk Assessment, Mitigations, and Work Practices

Risk assessments, mitigation efforts and work practices have been documented in the protocol and are sufficient.

Training and Expertise of Research Personnel

Dr. Matthew Alexander and [redacted] have completed the necessary biosafety training require[redacted]istration.

Occupational Health

Occupational health has been documented with the Environmental, Health, Fire & Safety Office.

Reviewer Comments

Edits are required in the Overview, Infectious Agents/Microorganisms, Facilities, Bio Waste Disposal and Safety sections.

Motion

A motion to approve and seconded with requirements.
Requirements: Stipulations described

Vote

For:	Eleven (11)	Against:	Zero (0)
Abstain:	None.	Recuse:	None.

Protocol #	IBC - 00000014
Protocol Type	Initial Review
PI Name	Dr. Jong Won Park
Project Title	Development of a novel lateral flow device for the rapid identification of *Ceratitis capitata*
Training	Documentation is present that there has been a verification the PI and laboratory staff performing the research have been appropriately trained in the safe conduct of the research.
Summary of Proposed Research	The goal of this proposal is to develop a lateral flow device (LFD) that will enable rapid, in-field identification of the Mediterranean fruit fly (Medfly), *Ceratitis capitata*. The Medfly is a major agricultural pest that is invasive in the United States. To prevent

	its establishment, the USDA and its partners maintain strict exclusion and quarantine protocols and enact eradication measures when detections occur. To achieve the research goal, this work will amplify partial DNA fragment of the Medfly gene(s) by PCR that will be cloned into a commercial cloning vector (e.g. pGEM T-Easy vector (Promega)) to be used as a target (i.e. recombinant plasmid DNA) for the assay development and optimization.
Section(s) of *NIH Guidelines*	III-F

Characteristics of Agent(s) or Material(s)

#	Agent	Strain	BSL	RG	*In vivo*	Recombinant
1	*E. coli* K-12	*E. coli* K-12 strain and its derivatives (exempt)	1	1	No	Yes

Agent Sources

Agent #	Source
1	Commercial Vendor: UNKNOWN

Recombinant Modifications

Agent #	Category / Description	Source RG
1	insert will be non-functional fragment (partial fragment) of a gene.	RG 1

Vectors

#	Vector	Use with Agent #	Source
1	pGEM T-Easy vector	1	A1360 (Promega)

Risk Assessment, Mitigations, and Work Practices	Risk assessments, mitigation efforts and work practices have been documented in the protocol and are sufficient.
Training and Expertise of Research Personnel	Dr. Jong Won Park has completed the necessary biosafety training required for this registration.
Occupational Health	Occupational health has been documented with the Environmental, Health, Fire & Safety Office.
Reviewer Comments	Edits are required in the following sections, Options, Overview, Facilities, Transport/Shipping, Personnel and Safety.
Motion	A motion to approve and seconded with requirements. Requirements: Stipulations described

Vote

For:	Eleven (11)	Against:	Zero (0)
Abstain:	None.	Recuse:	None.

Protocol #	IBC - 00000017
Protocol Type	Initial Review
PI Name	Dr. Haeyoung Kim
Project Title	TEACHING Mammalian Cell Culture Techniques: Biotechniques (BIOL 5313) and Cell Biology (BIOL 5315)

Training	Documentation is present that there has been a verification the PI and laboratory staff performing the research have been appropriately trained in the safe conduct of the research.
Summary of Proposed Research	This protocol covers the use of E. coli K-12 derivatives and the Chinese Hamster Ovary (CHO) cell line in two graduate-level courses: Biotechniques (BIOL 5313) and Cell Biology (BIOL 5315). Laboratory activities include handling recombinant DNA with E. coli K-12 derivatives and introducing recombinant DNA into CHO cells, followed by molecular analyses. Students will gain experience in standard molecular cloning, mammalian cell culture, CRISPR/Cas9-mediated genome editing, and a range of molecular analysis techniques, including Western blotting, immunoprecipitation, fluorescence microscopy, quantitative real-time PCR, and nucleic acid purification, while also practicing appropriate biosafety procedures.
Section(s) of *NIH Guidelines*	III-F
Characteristics of Agent(s) or Material(s)	

#	Agent	Strain	BSL	RG	*In vivo*	Recombinant
1	*E. coli* K-12 strain and its derivatives (exempt)	NEB 5-alpha NEB 10-beta	1	1	No	Yes

Agent Sources

Agent #	Source
1	Commercial Vendor: NEB

Recombinant Modifications

Agent #	Category / Description	Source RG
1	insert will be non-functional fragment (partial fragment) of a gene.	RG 1

Vectors

#	Vector	Use with Agent #	Source
1	pSpCas9(BB)-2A-Puro(PX459)	1	Addgene, #62988
2	pcDNA-TP53	2	Genescript, U421JDLYG0-1
3	pcDNA-MDM2	3	Genescript, U421JDLYG0-2

Risk Assessment, Mitigations, and Work Practices	Risk assessments, mitigation efforts and work practices have been documented in the protocol and are sufficient.
Training and Expertise of Research Personnel	Dr. Haeyoung Kim has completed the necessary biosafety training required for this registration.
Occupational Health	Occupational health has been documented with the Environmental, Health, Fire & Safety Office.
Reviewer Comments	Edits are required in the following sections, Overview, Vectors/Plasmids, Facilities and Safety.
Motion	A motion to approve and seconded with requirements. Requirements: Stipulations described

Vote				
	For:	Ten (10)	Against:	Zero (0)
	Abstain:	None.	Recuse:	None.

Protocol #	IBC - 00000002 - 0003
Protocol Type	Amendment Review
PI Name	Dr. Haeyoung Kim
Project Title	Epigenetic Regulation of DNA Repair and its Role in Aging
Training	Documentation is present that there has been a verification the PI and laboratory staff performing the research have been appropriately trained in the safe conduct of the research.
Summary of Proposed Research	The goal of this research is to investigate the role of epigenetic modifications, particularly DNA methylation and histone modifications, during the DNA damage repair process. This research seeks to determine whether these modifications persist after repair and contribute to aging, with a specific emphasis on neurons derived from human induced-pluripotent stem cells (hiPSCs). By exploring the relationship between DNA repair, epigenetic changes, and aging, this study aims to uncover mechanisms that may drive age-related gene expression changes and chromatin reorganization, with potential implications for developing therapies targeting age-associated diseases. This amendment will add lentivirus vectors to the laboratory inventory and protocols.
Section(s) of *NIH Guidelines*	III-F

Characteristics of Agent(s) or Material(s)

#	Agent	Strain	BSL	RG	*In vivo*	Recombinant
1	*E. coli* K-12 strain and its derivatives (exempt)	NEB 5-alpha NEB 10-beta	1	1	No	Yes

Agent Sources

Agent #	Source
1	Commercial Vendor: NEB

Recombinant Modifications

Agent #	Category / Description	Source RG
1	insert will be non-functional fragment (partial fragment) of a gene.	RG 1

Vectors

#	Vector	Use with Agent #	Source
1	pSpCas9(BB)-2A-Puro(PX459)	1	Addgene, #62988
2	pcDNA-TP53	2	Genescript, U421JDLYG0-1
3	pcDNA-MDM2	3	Genescript, U421JDLYG0-2

Risk Assessment, Mitigations, and Work Practices	Risk assessments, mitigation efforts and work practices have been documented in the protocol and are sufficient.
Training and Expertise of Research Personnel	Dr. Haeyoung Kim has completed the necessary biosafety training required for this registration.
Occupational Health	Occupational health has been documented with the Environmental, Health, Fire & Safety Office.

Reviewer Comments	Edits are required in the following sections, Facilities and Locations and Protocol Attachments			
Motion	A motion to approve and seconded with requirements. Requirements: Stipulations described			
Vote	For:	Ten (10)	Against:	Zero (0)
	Abstain:	None.	Recuse:	None.

7. New Business/Additional Topics

a. IBC Member input on Occupational Health Surveys

i. The committee reviewed the IBC application and asked the RC team if the OHP form is needed to be inserted in the protocol application. The RC team state no that only the date of the OHP form completion is required in the Occ Health Date field in the personnel sections. The IBC then made the decision that when PI is submitting the OHP form in the application that they will not need it on there.

b. The next meeting was set to be held on October 16, 2025, however, due to Fall Break faculty will not be available. The committee agreed to move the meeting to October 23, 2025.

8. Review of Incidents

a. None at this time.

9. Inspection/Ongoing Oversight

a. None at this time.

10. IBC Training

a. None at this time.

11. Public Comments

a. None at this time.

12. Adjournment

a. Adjourned at 4:32 PM.