Office of Research and Innovation
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INSTITUTIONAL BIOSAFETY COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

DATE: April 16, 2026
TIME: 3:29 PM
MEETING TYPE: Both in Person and Virtual

1. MEETING ATTENDANCE

IBC Members in attendance:	Role	Area of Expertise
Richard Laughlin, Ph.D.-Chair	Chair	Infectious disease/Microbiologist
R. Shane Creel, Ph.D.	BSO	Enterprise Risk Management
Haeyoung Kim Ph.D.	Scientist	Molecular Biology/Genetics
Fang He Ph.D.	Scientist	Biological Science
Montamas Suntravat Ph.D.	Scientist	Medical Microbiology/Immunology
Michelle R. Garcia Ph.D.	Scientist	Animal, Agriculture, Molecular
Cariann Galloway DVM	Scientist	Veterinary Medicine
David Rosse B.S.	Non-Scientist	Non-Affiliated/Community Member
IBC Members not in attendance:		
Madhurabau Kunta Ph.D.	Scientist	Plant Science
Nathali (Juana) Pina Ed. D.	Non-Scientist	Non-Affiliated/Community Member
J. Charlie Cardenas	Non-scientist	Non-Affiliated/Community Member
IBC Alternates not in attendance:		
Greta Schuster Ph.D.	Scientist	Insects, Agriculture
Veronica Anconda-Contreras Ph.D.	Scientist	Insects, Agriculture
Randy DeYoung Ph.D.	Scientist	Animals, Wildlife, Molecular
Christopher Hearon Ph.D.	Scientist	Dept of Health & Kinesiology
Elda Sanchez Ph.D.	Scientist	Animal, Molecular
Chang Sung Ph.D.	Scientist	Genetics

Others Present at IBC Meeting:
Ronika Williams, M.S., M.S. Research Compliance Coordinator, Recording Secretary

2. CALL TO ORDER:

a. Meeting was called to order at 2:59 PM

3. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST:

a. N/A

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

a. Dr. Laughlin announced that System recently sent a new set guidelines for artificial intelligence and research. Reiterating that there are guidelines that specifically pertain to research and use of AI. He stated he is currently working on drafting a TAMUK specific version of these guidelines and will create a draft that will be sent to all three committees

for review. He indicated that he hopes the draft will be completed before the next meeting allowing time for the committees to discuss and review then give any feedback.

5. **PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:**
    a. March 26, 2026
        i. Dr. Laughlin explained that he did reach out to system regarding what would be considered acceptable practice when redacting minutes posted on the website. It was explained that since the it is an NIH guideline to post the minutes and the inquiry being discussed was not linked to that particular guideline, it was advisable to redact the entire section. He explained that that was done for both February and would also recommend the same be done for the March meeting minutes. The meeting minutes were accepted by unanimous consent with redacted versions to be provided to Ronika for webpage posting.
6. **PROTOCOL REVIEWS**
    a. Continuations in Review:
    b. New Protocol Review:
        i. IBC-00000036: Sedentary Activity Levels, Understanding Disease Risk in Emerging Hispanic Adults (SALUD)
        ii. Meral Culver
        iii. Discussion:
            - Prior to the committee meeting, members reviewed the Sedentary Activity Levels and Understanding Disease Risk in Emerging Hispanic Adults (SALUD) protocol submitted by Dr. Culver. The review addressed several key areas regarding participant safety, regulatory compliance, and protocol modifications
            - **Participant Safety and Procedures** Mr. Rosse inquired about potential risks associated with the blood draw procedures. Dr. Culver, a trained phlebotomist, clarified that while the procedure may cause minor pain, discomfort, or bruising, standard pre- and post-procedure care will be strictly followed. Additionally, participants will be provided with direct contact information to report any abnormalities. The committee also discussed participant refusal; Dr. Culver confirmed that a participant's unwillingness to provide a blood sample would not disqualify them from the study, noting that such occurrences are not uncommon in this research context.
            - **Regulatory Approvals** A question was raised regarding the status of the IRB protocol. Dr. Culver confirmed that the IRB submission has been completed and approved. Dr Laughlin clarified the distinction between regulatory bodies, noting that IRB approval authorizes the recruitment process, while IBC approval is strictly required before any blood draws can be performed. It was emphasized that these approvals operate independently and one does not supersede the other.
            - **Required Protocol Modifications** Several sections of the protocol require clarification or correction before final approval can be granted:
                a. **Facility and Logistics:** The specific location of the biosafety cabinet must be clearly identified. Furthermore, the protocol

must include the proper agent designation for the rooms where blood draws will occur.

b. **Sample Transport:** Dr Culver indicated that samples will be transported by vehicle to a local Quest facility. To meet safety standards, Dr Laughlin directed that the transport container must be clearly labeled as biohazardous material.
c. **Waste Disposal:** The current protocol lists an individual rather than an agency for waste disposal. This must be updated to specify an authorized disposal agency.
d. **Agent Selection:** The protocol requires corrections regarding agent classification. The box for "rDNA" was checked in error and should be removed. Additionally, the box for "Human cell/tissue" must be selected, as human blood is classified as human connective tissue

- Vote:
    a. Dr. Kim:
        i. Motion to accept protocol with stipulations and edits
    b. Second: Dr. He
    c. Committee voted unanimously in favor; motion passed

7. **New Business/Additional Topics**
    a. Dr. Suntravat inquired regarding access to the BSL-2 training and the associated password within the TrainTrack system. Dr Laughlin and Ms. Williams confirmed that Mr. Alaniz currently possesses the updated credentials for the platform. Regarding the BSL-2 specific training module developed by Ms. Williams, Dr. Laughlin acknowledged a delay in his review of the materials. He clarified that while the presentation content is finalized, the module still requires recording and subsequent upload to the TrainTrack platform to be made accessible. Efforts to clarify the procedural steps for integrating this content into the internal BSL-2 training curriculum are ongoing, though no response has been received to date.
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. Motion to adjourn by Mr. Rosse
    b. Second by Dr. Laughlin
    c. Committee voted unanimously in favor; motion passed
    d. Adjourned at 3:35 PM.