

USDA
Panel: Full Committee Review
MINUTES OF MEETING
April 01, 2026

Members Present:

Voting:

Chad Austin (BSO)
Bonto Faburay (APHIS Scientist)
Daniel Harris (SHEM)
Katie Knapek (Alternate ARU Veterinarian)
Amy Lyons (IBC Program Coordinator)
Dana Mitzel (Chair) (IBC Chair)
Ediane Silva (ARS Scientist)
Steven Witte (ARS Scientist)
Ping Wu (Vice Chair) (IBC Vice Chair)
Dan Brown (Community Member)
Jay Reppert (Community Member)

Quorum was met with 11 of 13 voting members present.

Not Voting :

Non-Voting Ex-Officios:

Minute Secretary: Amy Lyons

Guests: Stephanie Knoettgen; Megan Trapp; Juliette Hanson

The meeting was called to order at 11:04 A.M by D. Mitzel, Chair.

EARLY AGENDA ITEMS

1. Confidentiality of Panel Proceedings

The members of the panel and the persons employed by the panel are reminded that they shall maintain the confidentiality of the panel's proceedings unless such information is already made available to the public. The Parties shall maintain the confidentiality of the panel's hearings, deliberations and initial report, and all written submissions to, and communications with, the panel.

2. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the March IBC meeting were reviewed. A motion to approve March 4, 2026 minutes as written was made by Steve Witte and seconded by Katie Knapek. It was voted on and approved (11 ayes, 0 noes).

3. Presentation of Protocols

James Zhu presented on protocol 26-01-120, Phage display library screening to identify peptides and antibodies binding bovine and porcine proteins.

4. Protocol Review

Protocols For Review

1. Presentation, Discussion and Voting on a New protocol:

Protocol ID: 26-01-120

Principal Investigator: James Zhu

Title: Phage display library screening to identify peptides and antibodies binding bovine and porcine proteins

Review Type: Full Committee Review

Proposed Containment Level: BSL-2

Protocol Summary: In this protocol the PI proposes to develop peptides or antibodies that bind bovine and/or porcine proteins.

After discussion, a motion to approve at BSL-2 pending resolution of stipulations was made by Katie Knappek and seconded by Dana Mitzel. It was voted on and approved (11 ayes, 0 noes). Discussion of risk focused on the source of phage display libraries and identification of target proteins. NIH Guidelines III-D-2a.

Stipulations:

1. For Biological Agents and/or Materials Question 2, clarify if agents are endemic or exotic.
2. For Safety, Occupational Health Question 1, answer all sub questions.

5. Other Business

Chad Austin provided an update regarding the approval status of protocol 25-03-107, Method Development for a Candidate Vaccine Platform for High Consequence Animal Disease. He proposed the IBC request an amendment to the protocol to match risk assessment memo, BioRA-SCIACF-FADRU-0001, drafted by NBAF Biorisk Management (BRM) Unit and provided to NIH OSP. A motion to amend IBC protocol 25-03-107 to address the following items from the risk assessment memo was made by Chad Austin and seconded by Katie Knappek. It was voted on and approved (10 ayes, 0 noes, 1 abstain [SW]).

1. Assign BSL-2+ for infected cell culture work.
2. For Facilities, Waste, Equipment Question 3, add Facility Shoes, Scrubs, and Shoe Coverings to required PPE for areas requiring BSL-2+. Use text box to differentiate PPE requirements for BSL-2 and BSL-2+.
3. For Facilities, Waste, Equipment Question 1b, add shower out requirement in the event of a spill outside of primary containment.
4. Update the BDM BSL-2+ SOP to match the BRM risk assessment memo and reference in Protocol Summary.
5. Attach the BioRA-SCIACF-FADRU-0001 to the protocol.

Chad Austin provided a summary of the annual bio-incident report provided to USDA ARS Plains Area Biosafety Officer.

6. Meeting Reminder

Meetings are held the first Wednesday of the month from 11:00a.m. to 1:00p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:47 A.M.

(Signature) (Chair) (Date)

(Signature) (Manager) (Date)