

USDA
Panel: Full Committee Review
MINUTES OF MEETING
January 07, 2026

Members Present:

Voting:

Chad Austin (BSO)
Daniel Harris (SHEM)
Katie Knapek (Alternate ARU Veterinarian)
Amy Lyons (IBC Program Coordinator)
Dana Mitzel (Chair) (IBC Chair)
Vivian O'Donnell (APHIS Scientist)
Ediane Silva (ARS Scientist)
Steven Witte (ARS Scientist)
Dan Brown (Community Member)
Jay Reppert (Community Member)

Quorum was met with 10 of 13 voting members present.

Not Voting :

Non-Voting Ex-Officios:

Minute Secretary: Amy Lyons

Guests: Juliette Hanson; Stephanie Knoettgen

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 December IBC meeting were reviewed. A motion to approve December 3, 2025 minutes as written was made by Steve Witte and seconded by Dana Mitzel. It was voted on and approved (9 ayes, 0 noes, 1 absent [VO]).

3. Presentation of Protocols

James Zhu presented on protocol 25-02-106, Development of Cell lines Expressing Candidate Receptors of African Swine Fever Virus.

Gisselle Medina presented on protocol 24-12-092, Use of Adenovirus as a vector delivery system to express Foot-and-Mouth Disease Virus (FMDV) antigens and immunomodulatory molecules/cytokines for immunological studies.

4. Protocol Review

Protocols For Review

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

Protocol ID: 25-02-106

Principal Investigator: James Zhu

Title: Development of Cell lines Expressing Candidate Receptors of African Swine Fever Virus

Review Type: Full Committee Review

Proposed Containment Level: BSL-1

Protocol Summary: In this protocol the PI proposes to test the expression of ASFV receptor candidates in porcine kidney cell lines that do not support ASFV replication.

After discussion, a motion to approve at BSL-1 pending resolution of stipulations was made by Chad Austin and seconded by Steve Witte. It was voted on and approved (10 ayes, 0 noes). Discussion of risk focused on the source and nature of genes to be inserted and the history of the cell lines to be used. NIH Guidelines III-E-1.

Stipulations:

1. In the Protocol Summary multiple cell lines are mentioned that support ASFV replication, but only LFBK is listed in the biological materials table. If additional cell lines may be used, include them in the biological materials table.
2. For Protocol Summary Question 2 indicate that work will not begin until JHAs have been submitted at NBAF. The attached JHA is from another facility, please remove.
3. In the Biological Agents and Material table, change the proposed containment level for the EF1a promotor from BSL-2 to BSL-1.
4. For Recombinant and Synthetic Nucleic Acid molecules Section, Question 6a lists 100mL but other parts of the protocol say 1L of product. Confirm volumes and correct if needed.
5. For Recombinant and Synthetic Nucleic Acid molecules Question 6, confirm if plasmids will be used and if so provide further clarification in 6b.
6. For Facilities, Waste, Equipment Question 2a, will any Virkon or Microchem be used? If applicable, check the associated boxes. Uncheck box for "Other" and remove the associated text.
7. For Facilities Waste, Equipment Question 2b, reference NBAF BSL-2 Laboratories Biosafety Manual.
8. For Facilities, Waste, Equipment Question 2d, identify by name hazardous chemicals found in kits.
9. For Facilities, Waste, Equipment Question 3, remove the following text "Specific PPE are not required." Uncheck "Tyvek" and check "Disposable Closed-front Lab Coat".
10. For Security, Shipping, Transport and Training Question 3a and 3b state "NBAF required trainings for laboratory access will be completed".
11. For Safety, Occupational Health Question 1, indicate that Hepatitis B vaccinations are available.
12. For Personnel Information, only the PI is listed on the protocol. If any other personnel will be performing work under this protocol, include them here.
13. Suggest including the work descriptions for individual rooms in the Research Location table.

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

Protocol ID: 24-12-092

Principal Investigator: Gisselle Medina

Other Investigators: Christina Silva; Derek Samarian; Leeanna Burton

Title: Use of Adenovirus as a vector delivery system to express Foot-and-Mouth Disease Virus (FMDV) antigens and immunomodulatory molecules/cytokines for immunological studies

Review Type: Full Committee Review

Proposed Containment Level: BSL-1 and BSL-2

Protocol Summary: In this protocol the PI proposes to use a replication deficient human adenovirus serotype 5 (Ad5) vector engineered to express FMDV antigens or immunomodulatory cytokines.

After discussion, a motion to approve at BSL-2 pending resolution of stipulations was made by Katie Knappek and seconded by Chad Austin. It was voted on and approved (10 ayes, 0 noes). Discussion of risk focused on the viral vector system. NIH Guidelines III-D-1a.

Stipulations:

1. Protocol Summary, include language to indicate that recombinant work will not be done simultaneous with other FMDV recombinant projects.
2. Protocol Summary: Remove animal work until agreement is made and it is determined who will be performing animal procedures. Submit an amendment to cover animal work once agreement with MVS is made.
3. Protocol Summary Question 2: Submit future amendment including IACUC information when available.
4. Biological Materials and Agents section Question 16, change response from Yes to No to indicate that animal work is not being assessed at this time. Submit future amendment to update this question as appropriate after animal work agreement is made.
5. For the Biological Materials and Agents table, include blood and animal tissues in future amendment including animal work.

6. For Recombinant and Synthetic Nucleic Acids Question 12, uncheck “Requires IBC notice simultaneous with initiation” and check “Requires IBC approval before initiation”.
7. For Security, Shipping, Transport and Training Question 2a, include blood and animal tissues coming from MVS in future amendment including animal work.

5. Other Business

Chad Austin provided an update on the status of a Dangerous Gain of Function (dGOF) policy in development.

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 12:01 P.M.

(Signature) (Chair) (Date)

(Signature) (Manager) (Date)
