

USDA
Panel: Full Committee Review
MINUTES OF MEETING
December 03, 2025

Members Present:

Voting:

Chad Austin (BSO)
Bonto Faburay (APHIS Scientist)
Adam Falberg (Alternate 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)
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: Stephanie Knoettgen

The meeting was called to order at 11:02 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 August IBC meeting were reviewed. A motion to approve August 13, 2025, minutes as written was made by Steve Witte and seconded by Dana Mitzel. It was voted on and approved (10 ayes, 0 noes).

3. Presentation of Protocols

Gisselle Medina, James Zhu, and Christina Silva presented on protocol 24-12-093, Testing the effects of in-vitro treatments on bovine or porcine cells.

4. Protocol Review

Protocols For Review

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

Protocol ID: 24-12-093

Principal Investigator: Gisselle Medina

Other Investigators: Christina Silva; Derek Samarian; Leeanna Burton

Title: Testing the effects of in-vitro treatments on bovine or porcine cells

Review Type: Full Committee Review

Proposed Containment Level: BSL-2

Protocol Summary: In this protocol the PI proposes in-vitro cell treatments of porcine and bovine cells using host proteins such as cytokines, chemokines, chemicals isolated from bacteria, or proteins expressed from synthetic viral DNA in E.coli or mammalian cells. The effects of treatment will be evaluated by gene expression profiling.

After discussion, a motion to approve at BSL-2 pending resolution of stipulations was made by Steve Witte and seconded by Katie Knapek. It was voted on and approved (10 ayes, 0 noes). Discussion of risk focused on the health status of source animals and the nature of the synthetic oligos. NIH Guidelines III-D-1a.

Stipulations:

1. In the Protocol Summary add a statement that blood and tissues will be sourced from naïve, apparently healthy animals.
2. For Protocol Summary, Question 2 add a statement that JHAs will be completed prior to starting work.
3. For Research Location add Room B2.102, if it will be used.
4. In the Recombinant or Synthetic Nucleic Acid molecules Section clarify that viral products will not be used.
5. For Question 1 under Safety, select "Yes" for "Are personnel offered any vaccinations as part of a BBP?" and state that Hepatitis B vaccination is offered.

5. Other Business

Chad Austin notified the committee of a Dangerous Gain of Function (dGOF) policy that may be released in January.

Chad Austin updated the committee on the response from NIH regarding appropriate biosafety level determinations for recombinant Foot and Mouth Disease Virus (FMDV). NIH indicated that if another Federal entity has made a determination (e.g., APHIS Veterinary Services permitting office for Organisms and Vectors) that the experiment does not require further NIH review.

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 11:42 A.M.

(Signature)

(Chair)

(Date)

(Signature)

(Manager)

(Date)