

IBC Meeting Minutes

Virtual- Microsoft Teams
19 Mar 2026, 12:30-1:30pm

Members Present:

1. Michael Trakselis (Chair)
2. Jason Pitts (Vice Chair)
3. Wyndi Klement (IBC Member/BSO)
4. Joe Taube (IBC Member)
5. Elisabeth Vichaya (IBC Member)
6. Bernd Zechmann (IBC Member)
7. Deborah Holland (IBC Member)
8. Jacques Nguyen (IBC Member)
9. Steve Ash (Community Member)
10. Bryan King (IBC Member-Alternate)
11. Elena Mora (Guest)

Meeting called to order by IBC Chair, Michael Trakselis, at 12:31pm

1. **Review and Approval of Previous Minutes:** Emailed and Uploaded to SciShield. Motion to approve minutes. February 12, 2026 Minutes were voted on and approved by IBC.

Conflict of Interest: The Chair requests that voting members report any conflict of interest regarding this protocol

2. Administratively Approve Protocols

- a. **Project 133 (PI: Korendovych)** NMR-based experimental approach to guide directed evolution.
Risks: BSL1 work using standard *E. coli* cloning strains and pET-based vectors for expression of various engineered enzymes
Reviewers: Trakselis-Exempt from NIH Guidelines Section III-F.
Current Status: *Administratively reviewed and approved by IBC Chair.*
- b. **Project 155 (PI: Makhlynets)** Cytotoxicity Study of Peptide Hydrogel
Risks: BSL2 work with MDA-MB-231 breast cancer cell lines to test any cytotoxicity of peptide hydrogels. No r/sNA used
Reviewers: Trakselis.-Exempt from NIH guidelines Section III-F.
Current Status: *Administratively reviewed and approved by IBC Chair*
- c. **Project 154 (PI: Bruce)** Particle Exposures in Fish Gill Cells
Risks: BSL1 work with fish gill cells and toxin exposures.
Reviewers: Taube, Pitts -Exempt from NIH guidelines Section III-F.
Current Status: *Administratively reviewed and approved by IBC Chair*

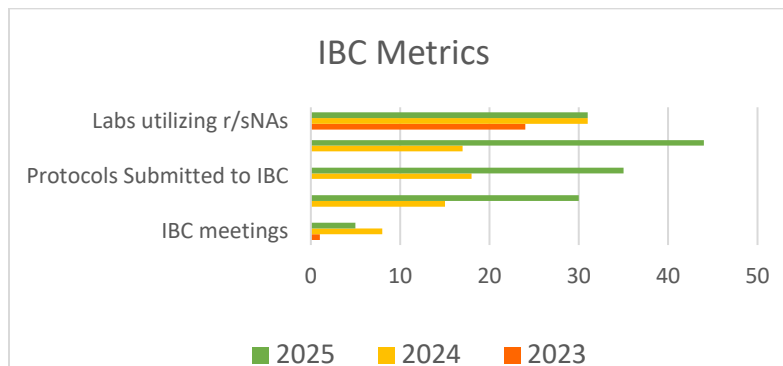
- d. **Project 142 (PI: Sim)** Molecular regulation of diapause in the blacklegged tick, *Ixodes scapularis*
Risks: Uses rNA for molecular biology techniques. BSL2 and ABSL-2+ work with *Ixodes scapularis* ticks is described. *Borrelia* pathogen is causative agent of Lyme disease.
Reviewers: Pitts/Zechmann – Exempt from NIH guidelines Section III-F.
Current Status: *Administratively reviewed and approved by IBC Chair*

3. Protocol Updates

- a. **Project 145 (PI: Sim)** - Molecular regulation of diapause in the mosquito *Culex pipiens*
Risks: Standard rNA for molecular biology techniques are utilized. CRSIPR modifications of *Culex* mosquitos. Virus infected mosquitos. BSL1 work
Reviewers: Pitts/Zechmann
Current Status: *Recommended for approval, voted to approve. **Approved***
- b. **Project 145 (PI: Sim)** Molecular mechanisms that regulate diapause in *Culex pipiens*. Again standard rNA for molecular biology techniques are utilized.
Risks: BSL1 work.
Reviewers: Pitts Zechmann
Current Status: *Recommended for approval, voted to approve. **Approved***
- c. **Project 147 (PI: Kuhn)** - Neurobiological mechanisms underlying resiliency and vulnerability to opioid use disorder
Risks: Uses AAV vectors for transductions of various fluorescent reporters into rats, cells, and tissues. Viral Vector Registrations
Reviewers: Dungan, Vichaya
Current Status: *Conditional Approval pending lab inspections and clarification of BSL levels.*

4. Other Business:

- a. Communication efforts for further/future IBC Registrations (Trakselis)



- b. NIH implementation of new biosafety policy- Spring/Summer 2026
 - i. Publish Draft Policy for public comment
 - ii. Assess feedback, refine policy, assess guidance needs
- c. IBC Meeting Schedule for 2025-2026, second Thursday of the month, 12:30 pm with protocols submitted 2 weeks prior to the scheduled meeting

IBC Submission Deadline	Scheduled Baylor Un IBC Meeting
29-Jan-26	12-Feb-26
26-Feb-26	19-Mar-26*
26-Mar-26	9-Apr-26
30-Apr-26	14-May-26
28-May-26	11-Jun-26
25-Jun-26	9-Jul-26
30-Jul-26	13-Aug-26

Meeting adjourned at 12:59pm