SCRIPPS RESEARCH
INSTITUTIONAL BIOSAFETY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
February 11, 2026

I. MEETING

The Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) of Scripps Research held a meeting via videoconference February 11, 2026, commencing at 2 p.m. Pacific Time. The meeting was held pursuant to notice duly given and a quorum was present.

Committee Members Present		Committee Members Absent	Others Present
Juan Carlos de la Torre	Michael Bobardt	Jim Gohres	Amy Green
Stephen Munday	Cheryl Andreoli	Roberto Aiolfi	
Elizabeth Ford	Elizabeth Montano	Raphael Park	
Mychelle Fernandez	Steven Robert Head	Smita Chopade	
Elyse Walk	Case McNamara		
	Lorena Garcia Menendez		

I. REVIEW OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

The Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the January 14, 2026 IBC Meeting.

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

III. BIOSAFETY OFFICER & IBC ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

NIH Biosafety Modernization Initiative (Elyse Walk).

IV. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Michael Bobardt will abstain from voting on protocol #02-11-26-01 for the Gallay lab.

V. REVIEW OF PROTOCOLS

Summary of Discussions: Summaries of each research proposal were thoroughly discussed, including but not limited to: agent characteristics; types of manipulations planned; sources of the nucleic sequences; nature of the nucleic acid sequences; hosts and vectors to be used; whether any attempt will be made to obtain expression of a transgene, and if so, the function of the protein that will be produced. The committee assessed key risks presented by the research and confirmed the appropriate biocontainment level for the conduct proposed.

FULL COMMITTEE REVIEW

MIGRATION

1. IBC Protocol #:	**10-13-21-06, Mravic, Marco**
Title of Study:	Cloning and recombinant expression of computationally engineered proteins
Department:	ISCB
Primary Reviewer:	Steve Head
Secondary Reviewer:	Cheryl Andreoli
NIH Guidelines:	III-D-1, III-D-2
Agents & Materials:	Lentivirus, E. coli, human cell lines
Biosafety Level:	BSL-2

Animal work: ☐Yes ☒No
Biosafety Inspection: Inspection of SR 101J completed on 10/16/25.
Training: Training verified and on record.

The following action items were identified as needing to be updated on the protocol:

Recombinant and Synthetic Nucleic Acids
Clarification on which proteins are expressed in which expression system is needed.

Toxins
Details regarding experimental procedures with Pertussis toxin are needed.

Study Design/Project Description
The door card needs to be attached. Clarification on whether live or fixed cells will be used for microscopy is needed.

Risk Assessment
NIH guidelines III-E-1 needs to be checked.

Review outcome: Conditional approval; full approval granted upon completion of the above listed action items.

RENEWALS

1. IBC Protocol #: **02-11-26-01, Gallay, Philippe**
Title of Study: Hepatic disease studies
Department: Immunology & Microbiology
Primary Reviewer: Case McNamara
Secondary Reviewer: Smita Chopade
NIH Guidelines: III-D-3, III-D-4-b
Agents & Materials: Adeno-associated virus, hepatitis A,B,C,D,E virus, recombinant hepatitis B virus, human cell lines, primary human cells
Biosafety Level: BSL-2+, ABSL-2
Animal work: ☒Yes ☐No
Biosafety Inspection: Inspection of IMM 214 completed on 5/13/25.
Training: Training verified and on record.

The following action items were identified as needing to be updated on the protocol:

Study Design/Project Description
The virus used in the xenograft model needs to be clarified.

Exposure Control
HAV vaccine needs to be listed.

Review outcome: Conditional approval; full approval granted upon completion of the above listed action items.

2. IBC Protocol #: **02-11-26-02, Wong, Chi-Huey**
Title of Study: Combating the Pandemic of SARS-CoV-2 Spike Glycoprotein-Mediated Infection
Department: Chemistry
Primary Reviewer: Beth Ford
Secondary Reviewer: Michael Bobardt
NIH Guidelines: III-D-1, III-E-1
Agents & Materials: Adenovirus, Influenza A virus, human cell lines
Biosafety Level: BSL-2, ABSL-2
Animal work: ☒Yes ☐No
Biosafety Inspection: Inspection of CHWL 245 completed on 1/22/26.
Training: Pending training.

The following action items were identified as needing to be updated on the protocol:

General Information
Generation of a more encompassing title is suggested. The AUP needs to be updated.

Location of Study
This section needs to be updated to include the location of H5N1 work in IMM in ABSL-2 containment.

Infectious Agents
E. coli needs to be added to the table.

Vertebrate or Invertebrate Animals
As H1N1 is not a self-inactivating virus, this work cannot be downgraded to ABSL-1 after 48 hours. The table needs to be updated that the infectious period occurs during the duration of the study. This work must be performed in IMM Viv ABSL-2 containment.

Review outcome: Conditional approval; full approval granted upon completion of the above listed action items.

3. IBC Protocol #: **02-11-26-03, Patapoutian, Ardem**
Title of Study: Approaches to study molecular and cellular mechanisms of mechanotransduction
Department: Neuroscience
Primary Reviewer: Michael Bobardt
Secondary Reviewer: Mychelle Fernandez
NIH Guidelines: III-D-2, III-D-3, III-D-4
Agents & Materials: herpes simplex virus-1, adeno-associated virus, lentivirus, helicobacter pylori, E. coli, non-human primate cells, human cell lines
Biosafety Level: BSL-2+, ABSL-2
Animal work: ☒Yes ☐No
Biosafety Inspection: Inspection of DNC 229, 237 completed on 1/21/26.
Training: Pending training.

The following action items were identified as needing to be updated on the protocol:

General Information

In the in vivo section of the containment assessment, details regarding the use of ABSL-2 PPE, red biohazard bags, and a hazard sign need to be added.

Location of Study
Clarification on the location of LV and helicobacter animal work is needed.

Recombinant and Synthetic Nucleic Acids
Diphtheria toxin receptor-expressing AAV needs to be added to the table.

Toxins
Toxins need to be added to the table.

Vertebrate or Invertebrate Animals
A list of the rodent strains used in this study is needed. Details regarding agent injection are needed including dose and max volume.

Study Design/Project Description
The select toxin SOP needs to be attached.

Risk Assessment
The use of sharps and performance of aerosol generating procedures needs to be indicated.

Exposure Control
Clarification of the use of Trichomonas vaginalis is needed.

Review outcome: Conditional approval; full approval granted upon completion of the above listed action items.

4. IBC Protocol #:	**02-11-26-04, Voss, James**
Title of Study:	Studies of long-Term Humoral Protection Against Antibody Resistant Pathogens
Department:	Immunology & Microbiology
Primary Reviewer:	Cheryl Andreoli
Secondary Reviewer:	Case McNamara
NIH Guidelines:	III-D-1, III-D-2, III-D-3, III-D-4-b, III-D-8
Agents & Materials:	Macaque peripheral blood samples, lentivirus, adeno-associated virus, adenovirus, Simian-Human Immunodeficiency Virus, non-human primate cells, human cell lines, primary human cells.
Biosafety Level:	BSL-2, ABSL-1
Animal work:	☒Yes ☐No
Biosafety Inspection:	Inspection of IMM 307, 309 completed on 1/20/26.
Training:	Training verified and on record.

The following action items were identified as needing to be updated on the protocol:

General Information
A short summary of the overarching goals of the laboratory is needed here.

Location of Study

The location of the ABSL-2 needs to be added.

Infectious Agents
Simian-Human Immunodeficiency Virus (SHIV) needs to be removed from the table.

Vertebrate or Invertebrate Animals
Deselection of 'other' methods of injection is needed here.

Human/Non-human Primate Material
Simian-Human Immunodeficiency Virus (SHIV) needs to be added as a potential pathogen present in blood samples. Human cell line 293 needs to be checked for human materials.

Study Design/Project Description
A detailed description of the downstream experiments following animal infection with lentivirus is needed. The Macaque sample post-exposure plan needs to be updated and attached.

Regulatory Assessment
NIH guideline III-D-3 needs to be deselected.

Exposure Control
Clarification on additional exposure control plans, and deselection of BSL-3 training is needed here. Disinfection of the animal area also needs clarification.
Review outcome: Conditional approval; full approval granted upon completion of the above listed action items.

5. IBC Protocol #:	**02-11-26-05, Mendoza, Alejandra**
Title of Study:	Sensory input effects on tissue immune homeostasis.
Department:	Immunology & Microbiology
Primary Reviewer:	Smita Chopade
Secondary Reviewer:	Steve Head
NIH Guidelines:	III-D-2, III-D-4
Agents & Materials:	Influenza virus, murine norovirus, adeno-associated virus, human cell line
Biosafety Level:	BSL-2, ABSL-2
Animal work:	☒Yes ☐No
Biosafety Inspection:	Inspection of IMM 211 completed on 1/27/26.
Training:	Training verified and on record.

The following action items were identified as needing to be updated on the protocol:

Toxins
Diphtheria toxin needs to be added to the table.

Study Design/Project Description
The ABSL-2 door card needs to be attached. Clarification on whether live or fixed cells will be used for microscopy is needed.

Risk Assessment
The table needs to be edited to reflect influenza's capability of causing disease in humans.

Review outcome: Conditional approval; full approval granted upon completion of the above listed action items.

DMR REVIEW

1. IBC Protocol #:	**05-12-21-04, Catz, Sergio**
Title of Study:	Catz Lab IBC Protocols
Department:	Molecular & Cellular Biology
Primary Reviewer:	Case McNamara
Secondary Reviewer:	Smita Chopade
NIH Guidelines:	III-D-1, III-D-2
Agents & Materials:	E. coli, Lymphocytic choriomeningitis virus, lentivirus, Pseudomonas aeruginosa, retrovirus, Salmonella enterica, Staphylococcus aureus, human cell lines, primary human cells
Biosafety Level:	BSL-2, ABSL-2
Animal work:	☒Yes ☐No
Training:	Training verified and on record.
REVIEW OUTCOME:	**Approved.**

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The next scheduled IBC meeting is **Wednesday, March 11, 2026,** via Teams at 2:00 PM. If full committee review protocols are not received by the next deadline date and there are no agenda items for full committee discussion, the meeting will be canceled. Members will be notified via e-mail of meeting cancellations one week before the scheduled meeting.