

NIH Institutional Biosafety Committee Minutes National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

Thursday, Apr 16, 2026

3:30 PM – 4:30 PM

Virtual via Teams

Members Present:

Quorum Met: Yes

☐	Francesco Demayo	Chair	☒	Huanchen Wang	Cell & Molecular Expert
☒	Christopher McGee	Biosafety Officer	☒	Lawrence Kirschner	Clinical Expert
☐	David Kurtz	Animal Expert	☒	Stephen Novak	Ex Officio
☒	Robert Petrovich	Protein Expression Expert	☐	John McLamb	Radiological Expert
☒	Justin Kosak	Lab Representative	☒	Jacqueline Hamilton	Community Representative
☐	Shih-Heng Chen	Virology Expert	☒	Troy Weaver	Community Representative
☒	Andrew Newell	Toxicology Expert			

Guests Present:

None

Announcements & Call to Order

- I. Meeting called to order by Robert Petrovich at 3:30pm.
- II. The IBC Chair identified one committee member with a conflict of interest who would be recused during deliberations for their permit.

Review of Past IBC Meeting Minutes

- I. Mar 12, 2026, Minutes
 - a. The Mar 2026 minutes were unanimously approved pending minor grammatical correction.

New Committee Business

- I. BSO or IBC lead reviewer preliminary registration approvals since the previous meeting.
 - a. None

- II. Registrations for Committee review

- a. Registration amendments for committee review:

Registration Number, PI: B-1830, Raja Jothi

- i. Reviewers: Huanchen Wang
 - ii. Review Summary: The PI aims to add two new 3rd gen lentiviral constructs expressing the transactivation (TA) domain of nuclear transcription factor Y subunit Alpha (NFYA) isoforms, NFYA-long or NFYA-short. The viral vector core (VVC) will package 3rd gen construct and Jothi lab will conduct mouse embryonic stem (mES) cell transduction for downstream cell analysis assays. Additionally, CRISPR/Cas9 will be used to edit CRM1 gene in mES cells to introduce C-terminal truncation mutation followed by an HA-tag, self-cleaving

peptide, and antibiotic selection cassette. Recombinant nucleic acids will be introduced to cells via lipofectamine. Selected cells will be used for cell culture.

- iii. Committee Discussion: Constructs only express transactivation domain therefore no full length NFYA isoforms will be produced. Work with 3rd gen lentiviral vectors to be conducted in a biosafety cabinet type II A2 following BSL-2 with enhanced practices consistent with previous IBC requirements. PPE to include double gloves, splash resistant closed front gown, eye protection, covered legs, closed toe shoes. 1:10 bleach to be used for decontamination and following standard biological waste disposal requirements consistent with institutional policy.
- iv. Training: Annual lab safety and biosafety training must be maintained.
- v. Animal studies proposed: No.
- vi. The committee discussed and determined there is no dual-use or ePPP potential concerns related to these experiments.
- vii. Public comment: Non-affiliated community members expressed no concern with work described within the biosafety permit. No additional public comment was presented.
- viii. Work was approved at BSL-2/3 for eukaryotic work, BSL-1 for prokaryotic work.
- ix. Relevant sections of the NIH Guidelines: III-D-1-a, III-E-1
- x. A motion was made and seconded to approve the permit.
- xi. The committee unanimously approved as written.
 - 1. Conflicts of interest: IBC committee member Justin Kosak was recused from deliberations and motions.
 - 2. Votes for: 8 Votes against: 0 Abstained: 0

I. Committee Review of Inactivation Procedures

- a. None

II. Standard Operating Procedures/Plans

- a. None

III. Serious Adverse Events in Clinical Trials reviewed by the Committee

- a. None

Reports

I. Biosafety Officer Report –

- a. Reported no incidents involving biohazardous work.

Around the Room/Committee Discussion

- I. None

Adjournment

- I. Meeting adjourned by Robert Petrovich at 3:42 pm

Next Meeting

- I. May 14th, 2026, virtual via Teams