

NIH Institutional Biosafety Committee Minutes National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

Thursday, Jan 15, 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:

Jessica McCormick-Ell, Director, NIH Division of Safety

Kaitlyn Connors, Fellow, NIAID

Announcements & Call to Order

- I. Meeting called to order by Francesco Demayo at 3:30pm.
- II. The IBC Chair noted no committee conflicts of interest on protocol for review.

Review of Past IBC Meeting Minutes

- I. Dec 11, 2025, Minutes
 - a. The Dec 2025 minutes were unanimously approved as written

New Committee Business

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

II. Registrations for Committee review

- a. Registrations for committee review:

Registration Number, PI: B-1992, Michael Fessler

- i. Reviewers: David Kurtz
- ii. Review Summary: The lab will study the role of LINE1 (Long Interspersed Nuclear Element-1 - transposable elements) in lung inflammation. The investigator seeks to deliver 5 different, LINE1 silencing shRNA into transgenic mouse alveolar cells (AT2) in-vivo via intranasal or intratracheal routes using Adeno Associated Virus (AAV) serotype 5, or potentially other AAV serotype vectors. May also conduct ex vivo work with AT2 cells. NIEHS Viral Vector Core will be packaging construct.

- iii. Committee Discussion: The committee discussed the use of AAV (risk group 1). The minimum PPE requirements include gloves, lab coat and safety glasses. Work generating aerosols to be conducted in class II BSC. Any spills should be treated with 1:10 bleach made fresh at least weekly. Dispose all disinfected solid biohazard waste in an orange biohazard bag and submitted for pick up through EHSA.
- iv. Training: Annual biosafety and laboratory safety training.
- v. Animal studies proposed: Yes, mice
- 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 proposed within the biosafety permit.
- viii. Work was approved as written at BSL-2 for eukaryotic work. Animal work was approved at ABSL-2 for the first 96 hours followed by ABSL-1 after initial cage change.
- ix. Relevant sections of the NIH Guidelines: III-D-4-a
- x. A motion was made and seconded to approve of the permit pending resubmission addressing the concerns brought forth during discussion.
- xi. The committee unanimously approved with the stipulation outlined above.
 - 1. Conflicts of interest: Shih-Heng Chen recused himself from deliberations.
 - 2. Votes for: 12 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 completion and implementation of institute 2026 exposure control plan.
- b. Reported no incidents involving related to permitted work.

Around the Room/Committee Discussion

- I. Jessica McCormick-Ell led a biosafety modernization discussion prior to the official meeting. Topics included governance considerations, the utility and usability of the NIH Guidelines, identification of activities that may warrant reduced IBC oversight, and potential risks that may merit inclusion in IBC registration requirements.
- II. The committee discussed the PI's feedback regarding incomplete information on the permit application and the PI's request to be present during committee discussions to address any questions. The committee agreed that the PI may be invited to participate in deliberations if immediate clarification is required.

Adjournment

- I. Meeting adjourned by Francesco Demayo at 4:18 pm

Next Meeting

- I. Feb 12th, 2025, virtual via Teams