

***PENNINGTON BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH CENTER
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA
INSTITUTIONAL BIOSAFETY COMMITTEE***

Dr. Diana Coulon
Dr. Timothy Heden

Dr. Stephen Hennigar
Dr. Abigal Fish (Non-Voting Member)

Dr. Jason Collier, Chair
Dr. Krisztian Stadler, Vice-Chair

Dr. Leonard Ezell, Community Representative
Jennifer Strickland, Community Representative
Dr. Christopher Morrison, Responsible Official

Dr. Stefany Primeaux
Dr. Erik Westin

Dr. Christy White
Dr. Sangho Yu

MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, August 14th, 2025
2:00 PM – B2001

Institution	<i>Pennington Biomedical Research Center Baton Rouge, LA</i>
Meeting Date	<i>Thursday, August 14th, 2025</i>
Meeting Time	<i>2:04 PM – 2:44 PM</i>
Meeting Type	<i>In person meeting</i>
IBC Members Present	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Dr. Jason Collier, (Chair)</i> 2. <i>Dr. Christy White (Safety Officer)</i> 3. <i>Dr. Diana Coulon (Animal expert)</i> 4. <i>Dr. Timothy Heden</i> 5. <i>Dr. Stefany Primeaux</i> 6. <i>Dr. Erik Westin</i> 7. <i>Dr. Sangho Yu</i> 8. <i>Leonard Ezell (Community Non-affiliated Member)</i>

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	<i>9. Jennifer Strickland (Community Non-affiliated Member)</i>
IBC Members Absent	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dr. Steven Hennigar 2. Dr. Krisztian Stadler, (Vice Chair) 3. Abigail Fish (Non-Voting Member)
Quorum	<i>Present</i>
Other Individuals in Attendance	<i>N/A</i>
Call to Order	<i>2:04 pm</i>
Conflicts of Interest	<i>The IBC Chair reminded all members present to identify any conflicts of interest as each registration is reviewed.</i>
Review and approval of previous meeting minutes	<p>July 10th, 2025</p> <p>Motion: Dr. Sango Yu</p> <p>Second: Dr. Stefany Primeaux</p> <p>All in Favor 9/9</p>

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Review of Prior Business	N/A
New IBC Registrations and Amendments for Review	
PI Name(s)	<i>Timothy Heden PhD.</i>
Registration Number/Title	<i>New Registration: R2506</i> <i>Molecular Metabolism Lab IBC Registration</i>
Project Overview	<i>The primary goal of projects performed in the molecular metabolism lab are to develop a better understanding of how metabolism becomes dysfunctional in metabolic diseases, such as cancer, obesity, and diabetes, as well as genetic diseases, such as glycogen storage diseases and lysosomal storage diseases, and to test novel treatments for these diseases. We hypothesize rewired metabolism alters gene expression patterns to promote metabolic and genetic diseases. We utilize a combination of nutritional, exercise, or genetic therapies in cells, mice, or humans to test our hypothesis.</i>
NIH Guidelines Section	<i>Section III-D-1-a</i> <i>Section III-D-3-a</i> <i>Section III-D-4-a</i>

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	<i>Section III-E-3-a</i>
Risk Assessment and Discussion	<i>The Risk Group 1 and Risk Group 2 viral vectors used are both replication incompetent. Human cell lines carry the risk of bloodborne pathogens. Bacterial cells are not known to cause disease in immunocompetent individuals. Risk will be minimized through training, engineering controls and proper PPE use.</i>
Training	<i>All required training courses are complete for all lab staff listed in the registration.</i>
Occupational Health Representative review (if applicable):	<i>N/A</i>
Biosafety Level Assignment	<i>BSL-1 BSL-2 ABSL-1 BL1-N</i>
IBC Vote	<i>A motion was made and seconded to approve the registration pending changes or conditions to be met. All in favor 8/8 Abstaining: Tim Heden Conflicts of Interest: none</i>

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Modifications Requested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) <i>Minor clarification requested on PPE use.</i> 2) <i>Minor clarification requested on room locations.</i> 3) <i>Clarification on source of virus and human samples requested.</i> 4) <i>Completion of the microbial section requested.</i> 5) <i>Information on transport of human tissues requested.</i> 6) <i>Minor change requested in waste decontamination.</i> 7) <i>Updating of room numbers and phone numbers on SOP requested.</i> 8) <i>References to Risk Group 2 agent use in mice need to be removed.</i>
New IBC Registrations and Amendments for Review	
PI Name(s)	<i>Robert Kesterson</i>
Registration Number/Title	<i>Amendment: R2305</i> <i>Cancer precision medicine laboratory</i>
Project Overview	<i>The original project studies the genetic disease neurofibromatosis type 1 (NF1) and</i>

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	<p><i>related genetic disorders by studying mutations found in patients with NF1 by creating gene copies (cDNA) of the affected gene and comparing functional differences compared to the normal gene. Cell lines and animal models that have been genetically modified to mimic the exact mutations found in patients are used.</i></p> <p><i>This amendment will add a biologically active RNA (antisense oligos) to be tested as a new therapeutic compound that will be expressed from a Risk Group 1 viral vector and injected via ICV or intrathecally to enrich distribution in a population of tumors found along the spinal cord.</i></p>
NIH Guidelines Section	<i>No change.</i>
Risk Assessment and Discussion	<i>No change in risk is apparent for employees. There may be some risk of antisense oligos concentrating in certain organs in the mice causing side effects.</i>
Training	<i>All required training courses are complete for all lab staff listed in the registration.</i>
Occupational Health Representative review (if applicable):	<i>N/A</i>
Biosafety Level Assignment	<i>No change.</i>

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IBC Vote	<p><i>A motion was made and seconded to approve the registration pending changes or conditions to be met. All in favor 8/8</i></p> <p><i>Abstaining: Erik Westin</i></p> <p><i>Conflicts of Interest: none</i></p>
Modifications Requested	<p><i>1) Requested to include information on what the new therapeutic is and how it differs from the previously approved Risk Group 1 viral vector.</i></p> <p><i>2) Include a risk assessment for antisense oligos.</i></p>
New IBC Registrations and Amendments for Review	
PI Name(s)	<i>Heike Muenzberg</i>
Registration Number/Title	<p><i>Amendment: R2301</i></p> <p><i>Dissection of central and peripheral signaling pathways that control energy homeostasis</i></p>
Project Overview	<p><i>The goal of the experiments under the original IBC registration is to examine neurons in the central and peripheral nervous system and their function to maintain energy balance. In order to identify the connectivity and function of select neurons the lab uses different viruses to either induce expression of a variety of genes or to remove expression of select genes. The combination of virus-expressed genes in specific transgenic mouse lines is used:</i></p>

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	<p>- to express fluorescent proteins (=reporter genes) to visualize select neurons, their processes into distant brain sites and peripheral tissues</p> <p>- to expressed receptors and ion channels that allow modulation of neuronal activity</p> <p>- to delete gene expression in select neurons</p> <p><i>This amendment is adding the expression of a different reporter gene in a Risk Group 1 viral vector.</i></p>
NIH Guidelines Section	<i>No Change</i>
Risk Assessment and Discussion	<i>There is no change in risk and no additional safety practices required.</i>
Training	<i>All required training courses are complete for all lab staff listed in the registration.</i>
Occupational Health Representative review (if applicable):	<i>N/A</i>
Biosafety Level Assignment	<i>No Change</i>

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IBC Vote	<i>A motion was made and seconded to approve the registration pending changes or conditions to be met. All in favor 9/9 Abstaining: none Conflicts of Interest: none</i>
Modifications Requested	<i>1) The correction of two typos.</i>
Other Business	
New member	<i>Jennifer Strickland was introduced as a new member to replace outgoing member Ed Kuhnert.</i>
SOP review	<i>Urethane SOP was reviewed and updates approved.</i>
Adjournment	<i>The IBC Chair moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:44PM. Next Month's Meeting will be scheduled for September 11th at 2 pm</i>