

***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, January 8<sup>h</sup>, 2026  
2:00 PM – B2001

<b>Institution</b>	<i>Pennington Biomedical Research Center  Baton Rouge, LA</i>
<b>Meeting Date</b>	<i>Thursday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026</i>
<b>Meeting Time</b>	<i>2:00 PM – 2:38 PM</i>
<b>Meeting Type</b>	<i>In person meeting</i>
<b>IBC Members Present</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>1. Dr. Jason Collier, (Chair)</i></li> <li><i>2. Dr. Krisztian Stadler, (Vice Chair)</i></li> <li><i>3. Dr. Christy White (Safety Officer)</i></li> <li><i>4. Dr. Erik Westin</i></li> <li><i>5. Dr. Sangho Yu</i></li> <li><i>6. Dr. Timothy Heden</i></li> <li><i>7. Dr. Stefany Primeaux</i></li> <li><i>8. Leonard Ezell (Community Non-affiliated Member)</i></li> </ol>

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	<i>9. Jennifer Strickland (Community Non-affiliated Member)</i>
<b>IBC Members Absent</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Abigail Fish (Non-Voting Member)</i></li> <li>2. <i>Dr. Diana Coulon (Animal expert)</i></li> <li>3. <i>Dr. Steven Hennigar</i></li> </ol>
<b>Quorum</b>	<i>Present</i>
<b>Other Individuals in Attendance</b>	<i>N/A</i>
<b>Call to Order</b>	<i>2:02 pm</i>
<b>Conflicts of Interest</b>	<i>The IBC Chair reminded all members present to identify any conflicts of interest as each registration is reviewed.</i>
<b>Review and approval of previous meeting minutes</b>	<p>October 2025</p> <p>Motion: Dr. Jason Collier</p> <p>Second: Dr. Sangho</p> <p>All in Favor 9/9</p>

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<b>Review of Prior Business</b>	N/A
<b>New IBC Registrations and Amendments for Review</b>	
<b>PI Name(s)</b>	<i>Heike Muenzberg PhD.</i>
<b>Registration Number/Title</b>	<i>Registration Renewal: R2509  Dissection of central and peripheral signaling pathways that control energy homeostasis</i>
<b>Project Overview</b>	<i>The goal of the research experiments under this IBC registration is to understand how certain neurons in the brain and body help maintain energy balance. For the body's peripheral nervous system, the lab will confirm findings from animal studies using human tissue samples. These human samples were collected by a collaborator and provided without any identifying information, so work with them is exempt from IRB review.  This IBC registration covers three areas: A) Use of biological material such as viruses, genetically modified mice, and recombinant DNA B) Work with human tissue samples C) Use of a chemical called 6-hydroxydopamine (6-OHDA)  A) Biological Materials:</i>

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	<p><i>To study how neurons are connected and what they do, the lab uses a variety of commercially available viruses. Most are approved for use at Biosafety Level 1 (BSL1), and some at Biosafety Level 2 (BSL2), including pseudorabies virus (PRV), modified rabies virus, and adenovirus.</i></p> <p><i>These tools allow us to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-<i>Make neurons glow under a microscope to see where they connect in the brain and body.</i></li> <li>-<i>Add special genes to produce proteins to control neuron activity.</i></li> <li>-<i>Remove certain genes and their protein products to study their role.</i></li> </ul> <p><i>B) Human Tissue Samples:</i> <i>The lab works with frozen and preserved human tissue (nerve and fat). Preserved tissue will be sliced thin and stained to see proteins. Frozen tissue will be used to measure gene activity.</i></p> <p><i>C) Chemical Use:</i> <i>The lab uses a chemical called 6-OHDA to remove nerve connections to fat tissue in mice. This helps to confirm that the tracing method only works when these connections are intact.</i></p> <p><i>These tools and materials will help test the central hypothesis that specific neurons in the brain and peripheral nervous system form circuits that help maintain energy balance, and that altering their activity will change how the body regulates energy use and storage.</i></p>
<p><b>NIH Guidelines Section</b></p>	<p><b>Section III-D-4-a, Section III-D-4-b</b></p>

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<p><b>Risk Assessment and Discussion</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) <i>Canine Adenovirus-CAV2 does not propagate in humans and has not been observed to co-propagate with human adenovirus. The vectors in this registration do not use oncogenic protein expression. Vectors are replication deficient and have the E1 region deleted. They will be handled at BSL2/ABSL2.</i></li> <li>2) <i>Adenovirus-these vectors are replication deficient but can infect vertebrates, however they cannot replicate without E1 region complementation. They will be handled at BSL2/ABSL2.</i></li> <li>3) <i>Adeno-Associated Virus- AAV infection is not associated with illness in humans or animals. All constructs are replication-deficient and produced without helper virus. They will be handled at BSL1/ABSL1.</i></li> <li>4) <i>Pseudorabies Virus, Bartha Strain- This strain is replication competent and attenuated. It cannot infect humans but replicates in neurons and is lethal in mice. AAV infection is not associated with illness in humans or animals. All constructs are replication-deficient and produced without helper virus. They will be handled at BSL2/ABSL2.</i></li> <li>5) <i>Modified Rabies Virus- Two modifications reduce infectivity. The Deletion of the B19-glycoprotein gene prevents spread beyond initially infected cells unless B19-glycoprotein is overexpressed. Secondly, EnvA pseudotyping restricts infection to TVA-expressing neurons, which mammals do not naturally express. They will be handled at BSL2/ABSL2.</i></li> <li>6) <i>Human tissue- All human tissues are treated as potentially infectious because donor pathogen status is unknown. They will be handled at BSL2.</i></li> </ol>
<p><b>Training</b></p>	<p><i>All required training courses are complete for all lab staff listed in the registration.</i></p>

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<b>Occupational Health Representative review (if applicable):</b>	<i>Three staff members have not had high-risk bloodborne pathogen training nor have they either received or formally declined the Hepatitis B vaccine. They will need to complete these tasks before they are able to work with human tissues.</i>
<b>Biosafety Level Assignment</b>	<i>BSL-1, BSL-2, ABSL-1, ABSL-2, BL1-N, BL2-N</i>
<b>IBC Vote</b>	<i>A motion was made and seconded to approve the registration pending changes or conditions to be met. All in favor 9/9  Conflicts of Interest: none</i>
<b>Modifications Requested</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>1) There are many spelling and labeling errors throughout the document (for example, using the wrong abbreviations). Please carefully review and correct them.</i></li> <li><i>2) Fix all inconsistencies between the use of a biosafety cabinet and a chemical fume hood.</i></li> <li><i>3) Several areas need to be addressed where an N95 mask or Tyvek overalls do not need to be used (BSL1 work, when working in a BSC).</i></li> <li><i>4) Instead of listing specific animal rooms that may change, simply refer to the ABSL2 suite or conventional rooms.</i></li> <li><i>5) Updates were requested in the risk assessment table.</i></li> <li><i>6) Centrifuge safety includes requesting the use of sealed rotors and biohazard signs.</i></li> <li><i>7) Minor changes were requested in the disinfection/decontamination table.</i></li> <li><i>8) Correct the NIH Guidelines to Section III-D-4-a and Section III-D-4-b.</i></li> </ol>

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	<p>9) <i>Several employees have not received high risk bloodborne pathogen training.</i></p> <p>10) <i>Update the Safety Officer information on the SOPs.</i></p> <p>11) <i>Reference CBC and PBRC SOPs for escaped rodents and using viral vectors in rodents.</i></p>
<b>Other Business</b>	
<b>Review of Chemical Hazard SOP</b>	<i>Review of Chemical Hazard SOP- reviewed and approved. Changes will be posted to Pine for internal access.</i>
<b>Adjournment</b>	<p><i>The IBC Chair moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:38PM.</i></p> <p><i>Next Month's Meeting will be scheduled for February 12<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm</i></p>