

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

Dr. Diana Coulon
Dr. Timothy Heden

Dr. Stephen Hennigar
Dr. Abigail 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, February 12, 2026
2:00 PM – B2001

MEETING INFORMATION	
Institution	Pennington Biomedical Research Center Baton Rouge, LA
Meeting Date	Thursday, February 12th, 2026
Meeting Time	2:07 PM – 2:46 PM
Meeting Type	In person meeting
IBC Members Present	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dr. Jason Collier, (Chair) 2. Dr. Krisztian Stadler, (Vice Chair) 3. Dr. Christy White (Safety Officer) 4. Dr. Diana Coulon (Animal expert) 5. Dr. Erik Westin 6. Dr. Timothy Heden 7. Dr. Stefany Primeaux (Virtual)

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

Dr. Diana Coulon
Dr. Timothy Heden

Dr. Stephen Hennigar
Dr. Abigail 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

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Leonard Ezell (Community Non-affiliated Member) 9. Jennifer Strickland (Community Non-affiliated Member) (Virtual)
IBC Members Absent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Abigail Fish (Non-Voting Member) 2. Dr. Steven Hennigar 3. Dr. Sangho Yu
Quorum	Present
Other Individuals in Attendance	N/A
Call to Order	2:07 PM
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>January 2026</p> <p>Motion: Dr. Krisztian Stadler</p> <p>Second: Dr. Tim Heden</p>

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

Dr. Diana Coulon
Dr. Timothy Heden

Dr. Stephen Hennigar
Dr. Abigail 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

	All in Favor 9/9
Review of Prior Business	N/A
<i>IBC Registrations and Amendments Approved between Meetings</i>	
PI Name(s)	Prachi Singh, PhD
Registration Number/Title	R2306, Cellular and molecular mechanisms in cardiometabolic disorders
Project Overview	<p>The primary goal is to examine the cellular and molecular mechanisms contributing to cardiovascular and metabolic disorders. The research primarily focuses on obesity, sleep quality, sleep quantity and sleep disorders. In these studies, the lab obtains biospecimens from research volunteers for specific uses and future studies (archived samples). Biospecimens include skeletal muscle, adipose tissue, blood, serum, plasma, saliva, urine, and stool samples. All biospecimens will be collected from research volunteers at PBRC. Primary human cell cultures are used to identify causal pathways and cellular consequences. The in vitro studies in primary human cell cultures also include 1) manipulating protein expression via use of viral vectors to overexpress or silence gene expression; and 2) use of radioactive molecules to examine cellular metabolism.</p>

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

Dr. Diana Coulon
Dr. Timothy Heden

Dr. Stephen Hennigar
Dr. Abigail 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

	This amendment involves the additional of one personnel to the lab.
NIH Guidelines Section	Section III-D-1-a
Risk Assessment and Discussion	The risk for the project has not changed. The only risk is to the new personnel who will be thoroughly trained before working on the hazards in this project.
Training	All required training courses are complete for new personnel added to the registration.
Occupational Health Representative review (if applicable):	New personnel have attended high-risk bloodborne pathogen training and either received or formally declined the Hepatitis B vaccine.
Modifications Requested	None
Biosafety Level Assignment	BSL-2
IBC Vote	This amendment was approved between meetings by the IBC Chair and the Safety Officer.

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

Dr. Diana Coulon
Dr. Timothy Heden

Dr. Stephen Hennigar
Dr. Abigail 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

<i>New IBC Registrations and Amendments for Review</i>	
PI Name(s)	Kesterson, Robert PhD
Registration Number/Title	Registration Renewal: R2601 Cancer precision medicine laboratory research.
Project Overview	This project studies the genetic disease neurofibromatosis type 1 (NF1) and related genetic disorders. NF1 has an incidence of approximately 1 in 3000 individuals worldwide and typically manifests with tumors that originate within cells that insulate nerve fibers (Schwann cells). The laboratory studies 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 are used to mimic the exact mutations found in patients. In some cases, the genetic change found in a patient is called a "variant of unknown significance" until experiments test the hypothesis that the variant leads to a change in gene in how the gene functions, thereby leading to a reclassification as a true "mutation". Overall, this research helps explain how the nervous system influences energy use and storage in the body. What is learned may improve understanding of metabolism and conditions related to energy balance.

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

Dr. Diana Coulon
Dr. Timothy Heden

Dr. Stephen Hennigar
Dr. Abigail 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

NIH Guidelines Section	Section III-D-4-a, III-D-3-a, III-E-3-a
Risk Assessment and Discussion	Both the virus and the E. coli DH5a strain used are risk group 1 pathogens posing low risk and are not known to cause disease in immunocompetent individuals. Human cells lines carry the risk of bloodborne pathogens. The highest risk of nanoparticles exists before reconstitution when they are a dry, powder form that pose an inhalation risk. Risk will be minimized through training, engineering controls, vaccination and proper PPE use.
Training	All required training courses are complete for all lab staff listed in the registration.
Occupational Health Representative review (if applicable):	All staff handling human cell lines have had high-risk bloodborne pathogen training and either received or formally declined the Hepatitis B vaccine.
Biosafety Level Assignment	BSL-1, BSL-2, ABSL-1, BL1-N
IBC Vote	A motion was made and seconded to approve the registration pending changes or conditions to be met. All in favor 8/8

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

Dr. Diana Coulon
Dr. Timothy Heden

Dr. Stephen Hennigar
Dr. Abigail 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

	Conflicts of Interest: Erik Westin stepped out of the meeting room at 2:15pm
Modifications Requested	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Clarification of the type of nanoparticles is requested and where they are being reconstituted. 2) Animal room numbers need to be revised to generic room descriptions. Ensure that proper rooms are being used for specific procedures. 3) Describe the procedures involved in cell culture and define RNP. 4) Include the specific strain of E. coli being used. 5) Include training specific to nanoparticles. 6) Clarify the decontamination method for the risk group 1 level virus. 7) Correct the NIH Guidelines for cell culture research and transgenic mice. 8) Clarify the use of PPE such as goggles and shoe covers. 9) Update the SOPs with contact information and hours and sign and date them.
<i>New IBC Registrations and Amendments for Review</i>	
PI Name(s)	Jason Collier PhD

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

Dr. Diana Coulon
Dr. Timothy Heden

Dr. Stephen Hennigar
Dr. Abigail 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

Registration Number/Title	R2308- Amendment; Inflammation in Pancreatic Islets
Project Overview	<p>The pancreatic beta cell is the only cell that makes and secretes insulin. Without insulin, people develop diabetes. This laboratory studies how the cell that makes and secretes insulin (beta cell) functions normally and becomes dysfunctional in situations such as autoimmunity and obesity. The lab uses recombinant DNA from commercial sources and standard laboratory-based procedures delivered to rodent and human cell lines and isolated pancreatic islets. These experiments reflect an effort to determine how to protect against losses in the function and viability of insulin producing cells, a process that leads to both major forms of diabetes mellitus.</p> <p>This amendment is adding personnel and the use of human blood to the original registration.</p>
NIH Guidelines Section	Section III-D-1-a
Risk Assessment and Discussion	Adding human blood to a registration that already includes human cell lines does not change the risk. The only risk is to the new personnel who will be thoroughly trained before working on the hazards in this project.

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

Dr. Diana Coulon
Dr. Timothy Heden

Dr. Stephen Hennigar
Dr. Abigail 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

Training	All required training courses are complete for new personnel added to the registration.
Biosafety Level Assignment	BSL-2, BL1-N
IBC Vote	A motion was made and seconded to approve the registration pending changes or conditions to be met. All in favor 8/8 Conflicts of Interest: Jason Collier stepped out of the meeting room at 2:32 pm
Modifications Requested	A glitch in IRBManager prevented the addition of personnel table from showing up. The PI was asked to update it once the glitch was fixed.
<i>New IBC Registrations and Amendments for Review</i>	
PI Name(s)	Eric Ravussin, PhD
Registration Number/Title	R2501- Amendment; Processing of Human Biospecimen Samples from Clinical Studies

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

Dr. Diana Coulon
Dr. Timothy Heden

Dr. Stephen Hennigar
Dr. Abigail 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

Project Overview	<p>Adding personnel and new biospecimen.</p> <p>The Translational Physiology Laboratory studies how obesity affects the body’s metabolism, especially in muscles. They also research how things like the environment or medications can change brown fat activity. In addition, they study aging by looking at how eating fewer calories may improve health and support a longer life in non-obese adults.</p> <p>The amendment added additional personnel and additional types of human tissues.</p>
NIH Guidelines Section	N/A
Risk Assessment and Discussion	<p>While the risk for different human tissues is very similar, the collection process is different. Safety measures for the different collection methods will need to be addressed.</p> <p>The biggest change in risk is that some of the tissues will now be transported from local hospitals to the lab and safety measures for transport need to be addressed.</p>
Training	All required training courses are complete for new personnel added to the registration.
Occupational Health Representative review (if applicable):	New personnel have attended high-risk bloodborne pathogen training and either received or formally declined the Hepatitis B vaccine.

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

Dr. Diana Coulon
Dr. Timothy Heden

Dr. Stephen Hennigar
Dr. Abigail 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

Biosafety Level Assignment	BSL-2
IBC Vote	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
Modifications Requested	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) A glitch in IRBManager prevented the addition of personnel table from showing up. The PI was asked to update it once the glitch was fixed. 2) More information on the safety measures for the collection of the additional tissues was requested. 3) The risk from the transport of specimens from the hospital to PBRC and the safety measures to mitigate the risk needs to be addressed.
Other Business	
	Review of Article discussing AI in IACUC and IBC Protocols
	The IBC Chair moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:46 PM. Next Month's Meeting will be scheduled for March 12 th at 2 pm.

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

Dr. Diana Coulon
Dr. Timothy Heden

Dr. Stephen Hennigar
Dr. Abigail 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