

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

Dr. Diana Coulon  
Dr. Prachi Singh  
  
Dr. Timothy Heden  
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, March 12, 2026  
2:00 PM – B2001

<b>Institution</b>	Pennington Biomedical Research Center  Baton Rouge, LA
<b>Meeting Date</b>	Thursday, March 12th, 2026
<b>Meeting Time</b>	2:07 PM – 2:20 PM
<b>Meeting Type</b>	In person meeting
<b>IBC Members Present</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Dr. Krisztian Stadler, (Vice Chair, acting Chair)</li> <li>2. Dr. Christy White (Safety Officer)</li> <li>3. Dr. Diana Coulon (Animal expert)</li> <li>4. Dr. Erik Westin</li> <li>5. Dr. Timothy Heden</li> <li>6. Dr. Sangho Yu</li> <li>7. Dr. Prachi Singh</li> </ol>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8. Leonard Ezell (Community Non-affiliated Member)</li> <li>9. Jennifer Strickland (Community Non-affiliated Member)</li> </ul>
<b>IBC Members Absent</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Abigail Fish (Non-Voting Member)</li> <li>2. Dr. Stefany Primeaux</li> <li>3. Dr. Jason Collier, (Chair)</li> </ul>
<b>Quorum</b>	Present
<b>Other Individuals in Attendance</b>	N/A
<b>Call to Order</b>	2:05 PM
<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>February 2026</p> <p>Motion: Dr. Krisztian Stadler</p> <p>Second: Dr. Tim Heden</p> <p>All in Favor 9/9</p>

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<b>Review of Prior Business</b>	The chair will ask Dr. Allerton to either resubmit or withdraw the registration that he submitted last April.
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<b><i>New IBC Registrations and Amendments for Review</i></b>	
<b>PI Name(s)</b>	Kesterson, Robert PhD
<b>Registration Number/Title</b>	Registration Renewal: R2602  Targeted disruption of genes in murine models related to traditional NF1-related tumors using STEP-Cas9 or STEP-Cre
<b>Project Overview</b>	Cells acquire a variety of mutations that can lead to tumor formation. In the disease Neurofibromatosis type 1, the gene most often mutated is NF1. However, several other genes are also often mutated in tumors from patients with NF1, including p53, p16 and p19. These additional genes are mutated in eye tumors called optic pathway gliomas and tumors that for around nerve cells called nerve sheath tumors in addition to a variety of other tumors. In rats already carrying a single NF1 mutation, breast cancer-like tumors almost exclusively form in a high percentage of the females although other tumor types are often formed in patients. In mice, no tumors form in mice carrying a single mutation while tumors may form in a subset of

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	<p>tissues with complicated genetic engineering. The lab hypothesizes that by using proteins modified to be able enter the cell upon injection, or in combination with small RNA sequences that target specific regions of the genome, they can disrupt genes that often influence tumor growth such that additional tumor types can be studied in rats and mice that best mimic the patient condition and offer a means to test therapeutic avenues for patients.</p>
<p><b>NIH Guidelines Section</b></p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p><b>Risk Assessment and Discussion</b></p>	<p>STEP-Cas9 and STEP-Cre have cell penetrating capacity however they have no replication or amplification capability. These proteins are biodegradable such that any exposure to the user would lead to mild irritation and can be treated with hand soap. Spills can be treated with 10% bleach. Furthermore, disruption of gene sequences is tailored for murine models and not humans adding an additional safety layer. These proteins are not pathogenic and do not cause disease in humans.</p> <p>The committee discussed <b>BSL-2 vs. ABSL-1 requirements</b>. The consensus is that <b>STEP proteins are considered BSL-2 until they are injected into mice. After injection, the mice are considered ABSL-1.</b> Therefore, mice do <b>not require BSL-2 housing at any time</b>. However, <b>all injections must be performed at BSL-2 inside a biosafety cabinet (BSC) in CBC</b>. A BSC is available in <b>room C1002B</b>. Mice can be housed in <b>conventional housing</b>, transported to <b>C1002B for injections</b>, and then transported back to their housing room.</p> <p>Mitigation: Handling of STEP-proteins will be performed under BSL-2 in the laboratory. Risk will be minimized through training, engineering controls and proper PPE use.</p>

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<b>Training</b>	All required training courses are complete for all lab staff listed in the registration.
<b>Occupational Health Representative review (if applicable):</b>	N/A
<b>Biosafety Level Assignment</b>	BSL-2, ABSL-1
<b>IBC Vote</b>	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: Erik Westin stepped out of the meeting room at 2:07pm
<b>Modifications Requested</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.) An update of all relevant sections to reflect BSL2 and ABSL1 requirements and locations was requested.</li> <li>2.) The abstract needs to be rewritten in layman terms and address in vivo gene editing.</li> <li>3.) The experimental procedures need to include dilution of Step proteins, precautions needed and a better description of the mice cohorts.</li> <li>4.) A better description of usage and disposal of sharps was requested.</li> <li>5.) The use of goggles is not necessary and can be removed.</li> <li>6.) Personnel need to be listed consistently.</li> </ol>

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	<p>7.) The risk assessment section needs to address tumor growth and describe how “disruption of gene sequences is tailored for murine models and not humans.”</p> <p>8.) Clarification is requested on what rooms require key access.</p> <p>9.) Clarification is requested on precautions used for transporting STEP proteins to animal rooms.</p> <p>10.) Autoclaves are not used for waste decontamination and should be removed.</p> <p>11.) A description of how bleach is used to decontaminate liquid waste needs to be included.</p>
<b>Other Business</b>	
	Welcomed New member Dr. Prachi Singh
	<p>The IBC Chair moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:19 PM.</p> <p>Next Month’s Meeting will be scheduled for April 9<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm.</p>