

**Lundquist Institute for Biomedical Innovation  
at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center**

**Institutional Biosafety Committee**

**Meeting Minutes**

05/12/2026

*Zoom Virtual Conference*

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**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Jonathan Abdala, B.S.  
Helen Chun, Ph.D.  
Begona Diaz, Ph.D.  
Scott Filler, M.D.  
Catalina Guerra, DVM  
Adrienne Zweifel, Ph.D.

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

David Applebaum, M.S.  
Rami Doueiri, Ph.D.  
Fang Wang, Ph.D.

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**STAFF PRESENT**

Elizabeth Burrola, CIP  
Rosa Harmon, CPIA  
Annie Hilo

**STAFF ABSENT**

Rosemary Madnick, MBA

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Scott Filler, M.D. at 3:01 PM.

**2. MEETING MINUTES**

The minutes of the April 14, 2026 meeting were presented.

A motion was made and seconded to APPROVE the minutes.

**Vote:** For - 5, Opposed - 0, Absent – 0, Abstained - 0, Recused – 0 (Dr. Guerra arrived after the vote to approve the previous meeting minutes.)

**3. BUA REVIEW**

**A. Previously Deferred**

**IBC #:** IBC 2026-33547-01

**PI:** Shakti Singh, M.S., Ph.D.

**iRIS Ref #:** 063942

**Summary:** This project focuses on the development of cyclic antifungal peptides (CAFPs), a new class of antifungal compounds that kill fungi by disrupting their cell membranes and can enhance the activity of existing antifungal drugs. Preliminary data indicate that several lead peptides are effective against drug-resistant strains of *C. albicans* and *A. fumigatus*.

**Inserts:** NA

**Vectors:** NA

**Pathogens:** *Candida albicans*, *Aspergillus fumigatus*

**Risk Assessment:** Risk Group 2

**Containment:** BSL-2

**Training:** Training has been verified by the Research Compliance Office Staff and EHS.

**NIH Guidelines:** NA

**Conflicts:** NA

**Motion:** A motion was made and seconded to APPROVE the BUA, contingent upon Compliance staff making minor administrative updates.

**Vote:** For - 6, Opposed - 0, Absent - 0, Abstained – 0, Recused – 0

## B. Initial Reviews

**IBC #:** IBC 2026-33934-01

**PI:** Santosh Kesari

**iRIS Ref #:** 064056

**Summary:** This study aims to evaluate the biological activity and safety of a gene delivery system called DNG64 (also known as DeltaRex-G), a replication-incompetent retroviral vector. A retroviral vector is a modified virus that can deliver genetic material into cells but has been engineered so that it cannot replicate or spread. The overall goal is to generate preliminary data to support the safe use of this vector for potential administration into the central nervous system.

**Inserts:** NA

**Vectors:** DNG64-CAR-V

**Pathogens:** NA

**Risk Assessment:** Risk Group 2

**Containment:** BSL-2

**Training:** Training has been verified by the Research Compliance Office Staff and EHS.

**NIH Guidelines:** III-D

**Conflicts:** NA

**Motion:** A motion was made and seconded to APPROVE the BUA.

**Vote:** For - 6, Opposed - 0, Absent - 0, Abstained – 0, Recused – 0

## 4. OTHER BUSINESS

a. Safety Committee Report – Accidents/Spills

Mr. Applebaum was not in attendance and compliance staff were not informed of any accidents and spills since the last meeting.

b. IBC Clearance for IACUC Approval discussion

The Committee discussed whether investigators should be permitted to order animals or hazardous materials prior to receiving IBC approval. Dr. Filler noted that pre-ordering animals does not pose safety concerns and can help avoid delays, as procurement is often time-consuming. He suggested that investigators should be allowed to proceed with ordering if they understand and accept the financial risk associated with per diem costs incurred during the approval process.

The Committee agreed to review the attestation language in the BUA form to ensure it clearly states that investigators must obtain all required approvals before initiating any research activities. The associated process will be outlined in the IBC Procedures document.

c. Self-Assessment Tool: Physical Containment – Laboratory Environment section

The Committee reviewed questions from #55 to #75, encompassing multiple sections including Physical Containment - Laboratory Environment and Large-Scale Research, Experiments Requiring IBC Review and NIH Director Approval, Physical and Biological Containment for Research Involving Animals, and other sections that did not pertain to work being performed at The Lundquist Institute. Details can be found in the updated IBC Self-Assessment Tool on file in the Research Compliance Office.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Signed by:



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Scott Filler, M.D.

Chair, Institutional Biosafety Committee

cc: Research Committee Agenda