Lundquist Institute for Biomedical Innovation
at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center

Institutional Biosafety Committee
Meeting Minutes
07/14/2026
Zoom Virtual Conference

MEMBERS PRESENT	MEMBERS ABSENT
Jonathan Abdala, B.S.	
David Applebaum, M.S.	
Helen Chun, Ph.D.	Catalina Guerra, DVM
Begona Diaz, Ph.D.	Jennifer Johnston, Ph.D.
Rami Doueiri, Ph.D.	
Scott Filler, M.D.	
Adrienne Zweifel, Ph.D.	

STAFF PRESENT	STAFF ABSENT
Elizabeth Burrola, CIP	
Rosa Harmon, CPIA	Rosemary Madnick, MBA
Annie Hilo	

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
   The meeting was called to order by Scott Filler, M.D. at 3:00 PM.

2. **MEETING MINUTES**
   The minutes of the May 12, 2026 meeting were presented.

   A motion was made and seconded to APPROVE the minutes.

   Vote: For - 6, Opposed - 0, Absent – 0, Abstained - 0, Recused – 0 (Jonathan Abdala arrived after the vote to approve meeting minutes.)

3. **BUA REVIEW**

   A. **Initial Reviews**
   IBC #: IBC 2026-32630-01
   PI: Michael Yeaman, Ph.D.
   iRIS Ref #: 064339

   Summary: Powerful interdisciplinary methods to study *S. aureus, Candida spp*., and comparative bacterial pathogens including *Acinetobacter spp., Klebsiella spp., Escherichia spp., Pseudomonas spp., Enterococcus spp.* and *Mycobacterium spp.* will be applied in vitro and in experimental models in vivo to explore the basis of antibiotic persistence.

   Inserts: NA

   Vectors: NA

Pathogens: *Staphylococcus app., Enterococcus spp., Candida spp., Pseudomonas aeruginosa, Escherichia coli, Klebsiella spp., Acinetobacter baumanii, Mycobacterium avium*

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: S. Filler

Motion: A motion was made and seconded to REQUIRE MODIFICATIONS TO SECURE APPROVAL of the BUA.

Modifications Required to BUA:

1. **Infectious Agents (Excluding Viral Vectors)**

A. The PI is to clarify if laboratory strains were purchased previously or will be purchased for this study.

B. The symptoms listed for most of the agents refer to a more severe progression of infection. The PI is to replace these with symptoms that would develop before pneumonia or an abscess, such as shortness of breath, fever, coughing, redness at the site of exposure, etc. The goal of this section is to have staff recognize symptoms and seek medical attention before the more severe condition develops.

C. For the *Candida* spp.- while 'catheter' is a common mode of transmission in a clinical setting, this is generally not the case for a research laboratory setting and should be removed. The PI is to replace this with the 'contact' mode of transmission.

D. *Staphylococcus aureus* - see 'catheter' note above.

E. The PI is to remove mentions of specific treatments and replace with a general statement that effective treatments are available.

2. Experimental Procedures and Emergency Response

A. The PI is to clarify if centrifuges have a spill containment (cover for the rotor or cylinder to prevent spills).

B. Since GLP is mentioned, the PI is to clarify if there is proper documentation. If there is no GLP documentation, the PI is to remove the reference from this section.

C. The lab is to reword the disinfectant use reference to ensure it is clear that the bleach or quaternary ammonium has dried before ethanol is used as failure to do so can generate toxic fumes.

D. The PI is to revise the section to introduce the abbreviation of macrophages at first mention.

E. The PI is to clarify the meaning of "pheno" in collection/processing.

F. Since some of these agents can be dangerous when aerosolized, the PI is to ensure study staff knows how to properly change biohazard bags. The IBC strongly recommends an N95 respirator be worn when handling medical waste.

Vote: For - 7, Opposed - 0, Absent - 0, Abstained – 0, Recused – 1 (S. Filler)

B. **Continuations**
IBC #: IBC 2023-32406-01R
PI: Michelina Iacovino, Ph.D.
iRIS Ref #: 064441

Summary: This renewal submission describes experiments that aim to evaluate the efficacy of genetically modified neural progenitor cells (NPCs) in correcting the neuropathology of Sanfilippo syndrome type B. NPCs will be generated from the H1 human embryonic stem cell (hESC) line and genetically engineered to overexpress functional NAGLU, the enzyme deficient in Sanfilippo B. Genetic modification will be performed using CRISPR–Cas9 gene editing to insert a functional copy of NAGLU into the AAVS1 safe-harbor locus. A lentiviral approach will also be evaluated to achieve higher levels of NAGLU expression. The ex vivo–modified NPCs will be transplanted into tNAGLU-knockout mice.

Inserts: NA

Vectors: FUGW, Vsvg, pAAV-hSyn-hChR2(H134R)-mCherry, pLEX307-EF1a-ChR2[H134R]-mCherry-Puro-WPRE, pHIV-CAG-NAGLU, pHIV-NAGLU, Delta 8.9

Pathogens: NA

Risk Assessment: Risk Group 1 & Risk Group 2

Containment: BSL-1 & 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 REQUIRE MODIFICATIONS TO SECURE APPROVAL of the BUA.

Modifications Required to BUA:

1. <u>Encoded Recombinant or Synthetic DNA Sequences</u>

For each entry, the PI is to update each section with a brief functional description of the protein being introduced. For instance, "used as a fluorescence reporter" would be expected effect of the GFP, m-Cherry, etc.

2. **Research with E. coli or Other Prokaryotic Hosts**

If the *E.coli* used in this work is a lab strain (Risk Group 1) and is not genetically modified, the PI is to remove it entirely from the BUA. If it is genetically modified and is only used for cloning and/or plasmid propagation (no protein expression), then it can be removed from the BUA as well. Otherwise, the PI is to update the response to the "Genetically Modified?" column to reflect that it is genetically modified.

3. **Research with Eukaryotic Hosts (Including Fungi)**

A. The PI is to clarify if the hES cell WAe001-A is the same or derivative of H1 mentioned in section 5.0.

B. For the HEK293T entry, the PI is to update the response to the "Genetically Modified" column to reflect that it is genetically modified since this cell line is being used to package lentivirus (per Section 17).

4. **Experimental Procedures and Emergency Response**

The PI is to expand the narrative to include how materials are processed after harvest, including the following:

A. Project Overview – The PI is to incorporate 2-3 sentences outlining how samples harvested from the mice will be processed. If these materials are fixed, explicitly state this-once samples have been fixed using a chemical fixative such as formalin, paraformaldehyde, etc, they are no longer biological hazards and further discussion of processing is unnecessary.

B. Experimental Procedures – The PI is to provide more details regarding the following procedures:
1. Culture of genetically modified cells
2. Packaging of replication-incompetent lentivirus
3. Transfection/transduction of human-derived cells
4. Animal Procedures
    a. route
    b. whether the animal is anesthetized of awake, but restrained
    c. whether samples will be taken from animals before the experimental endpoint
    d. whether samples will be taken at the experimental endpoint
5. How samples referenced in 4c and/or 4d will be processed

Vote: For - 7, Opposed - 0, Absent - 0, Abstained – 0, Recused – 0

IBC #: IBC-U-AAV PM
PI: Paul Mathews, Ph.D.
iRIS Ref #: 064344

Summary: Ataxia-telangiectasia (A-T) is a rare inherited neurological disease caused by mutations in the ATM (Ataxia Telangiectasia Mutated) gene. Children with A-T develop progressive loss of coordination (ataxia) due to degeneration of a specialized cell type in the brain's cerebellum called Purkinje neurons (PNs). There is currently no treatment that slows this degeneration.

This umbrella registration covers three related lines of research, AAV will be administered to mice and used in cell culture.

Inserts: NA

Vectors: AAV-CAAV-CAG-DIO-hM4D(Gi)-mCherry - AAV2/1, AAV2/1 AAV-CAAV-CAG-DIO-hM3D(Qi)-mCherry, AAV-CAAV-CAG-DIO-mCherry - AAV2/1, pAAV-CbH-EGFP-KASH, pAAV-CbH-C term Base Editor (BE), pAAV-ChB-N term Base Editor (BE), pAAV-CbH-prime editor readthrough (PERT), AAV9-CbH-EGFP-KASH, AAV-PHP.eB-CbH-EGFP-KASH

Pathogens: NA

Risk Assessment: Risk Group 1

Containment: BSL-1

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

NIH Guidelines: III-D & III-E

Conflicts: NA

Motion: A motion was made and seconded to APPROVE the BUA, contingent upon Compliance staff selecting "Not Applicable" in Section 6.4 as the study does not involve the administration of recombinant DNA to humans.

Vote: For - 7, Opposed - 0, Absent - 0, Abstained – 0, Recused – 0

C. **Information only**
IBC #: IBC 2025-23073-01
PI: Ashraf Ibrahim, Ph.D.
iRIS Ref #: 064119

4. **OTHER BUSINESS**

a. Safety Committee Report – Accidents/Spills
Mr. Applebaum stated no incidents were reported.

b. Glove Use Compliance in Shared Spaces

IBC Member raised safety concerns about scientists wearing gloves when leaving the lab and touching elevator buttons and other common surfaces with their gloved hands. In anticipation of

upcoming audits, Mr. Applebuam will draft a reminder letter for the Vice President for Research Administrationto distribute to all researchers to remove gloves when leaving the labs and EH&S will continue to remind researchers to follow safety protocols during trainings.

c. Human Gene Therapy Trials
Ms. Burrola and Dr. Zweifel discussed developing a new form or revising the current BUA to include branching logic for Human Gene Therapy Trials in anticipation of such trials being conducted by TLI investigators in the near future. They proposed incorporating the review of BUAs for trials in which the sponsor has filed an IND with the FDA into the DMR process which is the practice adopted by other institutions (since these trials are exempt from the NIH Guidelines). RCO staff will contact other IBC administrators to obtain examples of human gene therapy BUAs for reference.

d. IBC Procedures Document – Updated Pre-Review section
The Committee reviewed and approved updated changes to the pre-review section of the IBC procedures document, including risk assessment language and clarification of staff responsibilities. Dr. Zweifel suggested expanding Section 3C to include gene therapy studies and mentioned plans to update questions in the BUA form for better guidance.

e. Self-Assessment Tool: Resources section – Items 76 & 77
The Committee completed the final two questions in the Self-Assessment Tool. Details can be found in the updated IBC Self-Assessment Tool on file in the Research Compliance Office. The Committee agreed to re-start the assessment tool review process in January 2027.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:51 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Signed by:
Begoña Diaz
[illegible]

Begoña Diaz, Ph.D. on behalf of
Scott Filler, M.D.
Chair, Institutional Biosafety Committee

cc: Research Committee Agenda