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Lundquist Institute for Biomedical Innovation
at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center

Institutional Biosafety Committee
Meeting Minutes
10/13/2026
Zoom Virtual Conference

MEMBERS PRESENT	MEMBERS ABSENT
David Applebaum, M.S.	Jonathan Abdala, B.S.
Begoña Diaz, Ph.D. (Chair)	Helen Chun, Ph.D.
Rami Doueiri, Ph.D.	Scott Filler, M.D.
Catalina Guerra, D.V.M.	
Jennifer Johnston, Ph.D.	
Adrienne E. Zweifel, Ph.D.	
STAFF PRESENT	**STAFF ABSENT**
Elizabeth Burrola CIP	Rosemary Madnick, MBA
Rosa Harmon, MS, RVT, CPIA	
Annie Hilo	

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
   The meeting was called to order by Begoña Diaz, Ph.D. at 3:03 PM.

2. **MEETING MINUTES**
   The minutes of the September 8, 2026 meeting were presented.

   A motion was made and seconded to APPROVE the minutes.

   Vote: For - 5, Opposed - 0, Absent – 1 (D. Applebaum), Abstained - 0, Recused - 0.

3. **BUA REVIEW**

   A. **Continuations**
   IBC #: IBC 2024-U-SA YX
   PI: Yan Q. Xiong, M.D., Ph.D.
   iRIS Ref #: 064878

   Summary: The study team hypothesize that phage cocktails plus anti-MRSA antibiotics (daptomycin [DAP]) alone or in combination with ceftaroline (CPT) exert strong efficacy against MRSA and prevent resistance to both phage and antibiotics. To define and optimize synergistic mechanisms, they will perform experiments to logically translate these regimens.

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Experimental procedures involving biohazardous materials include: 1) preparation of S. aureus and phage cocktail; 2) handling of live MRSA cultures in combination with the phage cocktail for in vitro assays; 3) in vivo administration of the phage cocktail to animal host in infective endocarditis studies; and 4) collection of biological samples (blood, tissue, organ homogenates) from animals for phage or bacterial quantification.

Genes of Interest: NA

Vectors: NA

Pathogens: Lytic Bacteriophages, Staphylococcus aureus

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: None

Discussion: A member recommended revising Section 12.0 of the BUA to select "Yes" for the use of a prokaryotic host, noting that MRSA is a prokaryote. Members discussed the recommendation and agreed that selecting "Yes" was not necessary, as MRSA would not serve as a host in the proposed work. Members also agreed that the wording of this section could be revisited to clarify for investigators the circumstances under which a prokaryotic host should be indicated.

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 stated no incidents were reported.

b. Draft NIH Policy for Research Involving Biohazards

Dr. Zweifel provided extensive comments on various sections of the Draft NIH Biosafety Policy for Research Involving Biohazards, including the scope, definitions, incident reporting requirements, and containment level determinations. The Committee discussed concerns about the Policy's burdensome administrative requirements, public disclosure requirements, and the removal of IBC autonomy in determining containment levels for emerging agents. The conversation ended with discussion of the October 19, 2026, comment submission

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deadline and the need for multiple institutions to provide feedback on the proposed Biosafety Policy.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Signed by:
Begona Diaz
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Begoña Diaz, Ph.D.
On behalf of the Chair,
Institutional Biosafety Committee

cc: Research Committee Agenda