

**INSTITUTIONAL BIOSAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**March 12, 2025**  
**Zoom Meeting**

MEMBERS PRESENT: *Chair:* Deidra Mountain, Bryce Burton, Ashley Carroll, Paul Dalhaimer, Lezlee Dice, Doris D’Souza, Reza Hajimorad, Joseph Jackson, Jun Lin, Jae Park, Jessica Vélez, Ling Zhao

*Ex-Officio:* Carolina D. Carter, Emily Deem, Linda Hamilton, Daniel Thomas

MEMBERS ABSENT: Kelsey Finnie, Liz Fozo, Brittany Isabell, Andi Lear

*Ex-Officio:* Chris Baker, Bryan Cranmore, Brian Ranger, Jessica Woofter

OTHERS PRESENT: Sree Rajeev

**Agenda:**

- I. Call to order
- II. Review of February 19, 2025, minutes
- III. Full Committee Review (FMR)
  - a. McCord, Rachel (HDM, RDNA) 3<sup>rd</sup>-Year Rewrite #16-437-2-A
  - b. Rajeev, Sree (IA, RDNA) New Registration #25-607-2-A
- IV. Administrative Report
  - a. Committee Approvals & Contingencies – Deem
  - b. Administrative Approvals – Deem
- V. Old Business
  - a. In-Person Member Meetings – Hamilton & Deem
- VI. New Business
  - a. DURC/PEPP Overview – Thomas
  - b. Safety Stratus Form Updates – Deem
- VII. Adjourn

**Opening:**

The IBC Chair called the meeting to order at 11:30am. The minutes for the February 19, 2025, IBC Meeting were reviewed and approved as written with one abstention.

## **IBC Registrations for Full Member Review:**

Full Committee Review (FMR) presentations are open to the public. The meeting was subsequently closed for internal committee discussion and voting.

### **IBC-25-607-2-A (Rajeev, Sree) Ehrlichia and Anaplasma diagnostics and vaccine development research – New Registration (RDNA, IA); NIH Section III-D-2**

Dr. Rajeev was present to discuss her research. For this project, she is studying two canine pathogens: *Ehrlichia canis* and *Anaplasma platys*. These pathogens do not affect humans. *E. coli* DH-82 will be used for the cultivation of *E. canis*. *E. canis* assays will be developed for improved diagnostics. Diagnostic samples will be used for assessment of *Anaplasma platys*. Field-collected blood samples from infected animals will be used for the collection of *E. canis*. The diagnostic samples for *Anaplasma platys* will be obtained from the diagnostic lab at UTCVM. Biosafety level 2 (BSL-2) containment practices will be used. Upon an inquiry from the committee about the source of the infected blood samples, Dr. Rajeev clarified that the blood samples will also be obtained from the UTCVM diagnostic lab, with PCR being used to confirm infection of *E. canis*. The committee also requested assurance that cultures will not exceed one liter; Dr. Rajeev stated that the cultures are around 25 milliliters. The second part of the project involves antibody assessment via ELISA-based assays and Western blots. The committee advised Dr. Rajeev to clarify in her registration that the blood samples are being received from the diagnostic lab, and they will not be collected by her lab group in the field. The committee voted to approve this registration pending designated member review.

### **IBC-16-437-2-A (McCord, Rachel) Physical Perturbations of the 3D Genome – 3<sup>rd</sup>-Year Rewrite (HDM, RDNA); NIH Section III-D-3**

Dr. McCord's lab studies the three-dimensional structure of the human genome. The lab investigates how changes in the chromosome lead to changes in gene expression and cell function. Human cell lines will be used from commercial and biopsy sources. The PI will need to confirm the existing biosafety levels of the lab spaces indicated on the registration. The committee voted to approve the registration pending administrative corrections.

## **Administrative Report**

### *i. Approvals (FMR)*

**IBC-06-291-1-A** – Labrador, Mariano (RDNA): 3<sup>rd</sup>-year rewrite approved on 2/27/2025.

**IBC-25-605-2-A** – Owings, Charity (IA): New registration approved on 3/5/2025.

### *ii. Approvals (DMR)*

**IBC-19-535-1-A** – Lenaghan, Scott (RDNA): 3<sup>rd</sup>-year rewrite approved on 3/5/2025.

**IBC-13-397-2-A** – Gerhold, Richard (IA): 3<sup>rd</sup>-year rewrite approved on 3/12/2025.

### *iii. Administrative Approvals*

**IBC-22-580-2** – Burcham, Lindsey (HDM, IA, RDNA): Amendment approved 2/27/2025.

**IBC-13-410-2** – Donohoe, Dallas (HDM, IA, RDNA): 2<sup>nd</sup>-year annual update approved 3/4/2025.

**IBC-23-586-1** – Occhialini, Alessandro (RDNA): 2<sup>nd</sup>-year annual update approved 3/4/2025.

**IBC-22-575-2-A** – Springer, Nora (HDM): 3<sup>rd</sup>-year rewrite approved 3/5/2025.

**IBC-08-334-1-B** – Alexandre, Gladys (RDNA): 1<sup>st</sup>-year annual update approved 3/11/2025.

**IBC-08-331-1** – Binder, Brad (RDNA): 2<sup>nd</sup>-year annual update approved 3/11/2025.

**IBC-14-416-2** – Zhong, Qixin (IA, NANO): 2<sup>nd</sup>-year annual update approved 3/11/2025.

## **Old Business:**

### ***i.* Individual Member Meetings**

In January through March, Linda and Emily met with each voting member on the IBC to discuss current function of the IBC and possible improvements. Many changes will be implemented as a result, including the transition of IBC meetings to in-person, possibly starting in June 2025. Trainings will be developed for a variety of topics, including NIH guidelines refresher and Safety Stratus use. IBC administration will also make efforts to increase member appreciation. Improvements to the designated reviewer experience will also be assessed.

## **New Business:**

### ***ii.* Life Sciences DURC/PEPP Policy Change**

Daniel presented on the US Government Policy for Oversight of Dual Use Research of Concern and Pathogens with Enhanced Pandemic Potential. This policy is stated to go into effect on May 6<sup>th</sup>. Increased oversight of DURC/PEPP research could impact IBC function. The policy describes research that falls under two categories: Category 1 and Category 2. Assessment of research that may fall under these categories will be made by an established Institutional Review Entity (IRE), which may be a subcommittee of the IBC or a standalone committee. Currently, communications have occurred with some stakeholders such as possibly affected department heads and Sponsored Programs. PIs working with RG2 agents will be contacted to discuss if their research may fall under either category. Further discussion is needed to assess impact.

### ***iii.* Safety Stratus Form Updates**

Emily presented recent changes to the Safety Stratus registration forms. All forms were reviewed for grammatical errors, typos, and consistency in question phrasing. Some questions were clarified to avoid confusion in interpretation. More changes have been requested and will be sent to Jessica Woofter for implementation.

**Closing:**

The IBC Chair adjourned the meeting at 12:58pm. The next meeting is not yet scheduled but will take place in April 2025 via Zoom.