

Johns Hopkins Institutional Biosafety Committee  
JHU IBC Minutes for March 16, 2026  
Zoom Meeting

**Members Present:** Gary S. Hayward, Ph.D. (IBC Chair, Virology and Gene Therapy); Alan F. Scott, Ph.D. (IBC member, Genetic Medicine and Molecular Biology); Weiying Pan, Ph.D., RBP (BSO, Molecular Aspect of Drug Design and Biology); Nadia Desir, Ph.D., RBP (IBC member, Research Lab Safety and High Containment); Viji Sittther, Ph.D. (Non-affiliated Member, Plant Biology); Prashant Desai, Ph.D. (IBC member, Virology and Oncology); Ms. Claudia MacAuley, L.A.T. (Non-affiliated Member, Biosafety and High Containment); Djikolngar Maouyo, Ph.D. (Non-affiliated Member, Biology); Jason Villano, D.V.M. (IBC member, Animal Science—Left earlier and did not vote on the last two registrations).

**Members Absent:** Elizabeth A. Laffan, Ph.D. (Non-affiliated Member, Biology); Brigitte Gaume, Ph.D. (Non-affiliated Member, Biology); Douglas Norris, Ph.D. (IBC member, Vector Biology and Entomology); Joseph B. Margolick, MD, Ph.D. (IBC member, Medicine, Microbiology and Immunology); Stephen C. Dahl, Ph.D., RBP (IBC member, Biology)

**IBC Coordinator:** Ms. Tylicia McRae

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The Meeting was called to order at 3:05 pm.

**Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes**

The minutes of the February 16, 2026, meeting were approved as submitted.

**Announcements:**

No conflicts of interest were reported by IBC members.

**IBC review and recommendation of Recombinant DNA Research Registrations and Amendments:**

5 research registrations and 3 amendments were presented for IBC consideration.

**Review of Incidents:**

No incidents were reported at this meeting.

**Public Comments:**

There were no public comments.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 pm.

## March, 2026,JHU IBC R-DNA Research Registrations and Amendments

| Name | Synopsis | IBC# | BSL | ABSL | NIH Cit. | Agent | Select Agent |
|------|----------|------|-----|------|----------|-------|--------------|
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### New Registrations

|                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |             |   |   |                                         |                    |  |
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| <b>Damarla, Mahendra</b> | <p>Replication-incompetent lentiviral vectors obtained from a commercial vendor will be used to transduce a fluorescent reporter gene and genes involved in apoptosis, proliferation, cell-cycle progression, and circadian rhythmicity into cultured cells and animals to study the molecular regulators of endothelial barrier dysfunction. All experiments will be conducted using Biosafety Level 2 (BSL-2) practices. Laboratory personnel will be trained in the safe handling of viral vectors and all other recombinant DNA materials, and will follow established standard operating procedures (SOPs) for the disposal of contaminated materials and for responding to laboratory incidents.</p> <p>Pathogen/Infectious agent registration for Replication-incompetent lentiviral vectors</p> <p>RegSupport: R-DNA:DN1901150108; Human tissue registration: B1901150208; Adenoviral vectors:</p> | P2602270101 | 2 | 2 | III-D-3-a, III- Replication-incompetent | No                 |  |
|                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |             |   |   | D-4-b                                   | lentiviral vectors |  |

### Discussion/Review

|                                            |                                                                                                                                                               |
|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Protocol Narrative Assessment:</b>      | Acceptable. The proposal adequately describes the experiments to be performed.                                                                                |
| <b>Hazard Assessment and Precautions:</b>  | Acceptable. The proposal adequately describes the potential biohazards inherent in the research program and identifies proper containment procedures and PPE. |
| <b>Training:</b>                           | Acceptable. The proposal adequately describes the training required for personnel to perform the experiments.                                                 |
| <b>Decontamination and Waste Disposal:</b> | Acceptable. The proposal adequately describes proper decontamination and disposal procedures.                                                                 |
| <b>Committee Vote:</b>                     | <b>For: 9</b> <b>Opposed: 0</b> <b>Abstentions: 0</b>                                                                                                         |

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| <b>Lauer, Amanda</b> | Replication-incompetent adeno-associated viral vectors obtained from collaborators will be used to transduce GFP and α9L9T nAChR into mice to study age- and hearing loss–related morphological and functional changes of inner ear efferent neurons. All experiments will be conducted using Biosafety Level 2 (BSL-2) practices. Laboratory personnel will be trained in the safe handling of viral vectors and all other recombinant DNA materials, and will follow established standard operating procedures (SOPs) for the disposal of contaminated materials and for responding to laboratory incidents. Pathogen/Infectious agent registration for Replication-incompetent adeno-associated viral vectors<br>RegSupport: R-DNA:DN0906080317; Human tissue registration: B0906260117 | P2601290101 | 2 | 2 III-D-1-a; III- Replication-incompetent | No      |
|                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |             |   | adeno-associated viral                    |         |
|                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |             |   | D-4-b                                     | vectors |

## Discussion/Review

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| <b>Protocol Narrative Assessment:</b>      | Acceptable. The proposal adequately describes the experiments to be performed.                                                                                |
| <b>Hazard Assessment and Precautions:</b>  | Acceptable. The proposal adequately describes the potential biohazards inherent in the research program and identifies proper containment procedures and PPE. |
| <b>Training:</b>                           | Acceptable. The proposal adequately describes the training required for personnel to perform the experiments.                                                 |
| <b>Decontamination and Waste Disposal:</b> | Acceptable. The proposal adequately describes proper decontamination and disposal procedures.                                                                 |
| <b>Committee Vote:</b>                     | <b>For: 9      Opposed: 0      Abstentions: 0</b>                                                                                                             |

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| <b>Tuffaha, Sami</b> | Replication-incompetent herpes simplex virus type 1 (HSV-1) vectors obtained from a commercial vendor will be used to transduce GFP and a modified caspase-3 into mice to evaluate strategies for reducing neuroma risk by selectively ablating or modulating peripheral sensory neurons. All experiments will be conducted using Biosafety Level 2 (BSL-2) practices. Laboratory personnel will be trained in the safe handling of viral vectors and all other recombinant DNA materials, and will follow established standard operating procedures (SOPs) for the disposal of contaminated materials and for responding to laboratory incidents. Pathogen/Infectious agent registration for Replication-incompetent Herpes Simplex Virus type 1 (HSV-1) vectors.<br>RegSupport: R-DNA: DN2301130104; Adeno-associated Viral Vectors: P2309110103 | P2602030101 | 2 | 2 III-D-3-a; III- Replication-incompetent | No                     |
|                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |             |   | Herpes Simplex Virus                      |                        |
|                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |             |   | D-4-b                                     | type 1 (HSV-1) vectors |

## Discussion/Review

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| <b>Protocol Narrative Assessment:</b>      | Acceptable. The proposal adequately describes the experiments to be performed.                                                                                |
| <b>Hazard Assessment and Precautions:</b>  | Acceptable. The proposal adequately describes the potential biohazards inherent in the research program and identifies proper containment procedures and PPE. |
| <b>Training:</b>                           | Acceptable. The proposal adequately describes the training required for personnel to perform the experiments.                                                 |
| <b>Decontamination and Waste Disposal:</b> | Acceptable. The proposal adequately describes proper decontamination and disposal procedures.                                                                 |
| <b>Committee Vote:</b>                     | <b>For: 9      Opposed: 0      Abstentions: 0</b>                                                                                                             |

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| <b>Welling, Paul</b> | Replication-incompetent lentiviral vectors obtained from a commercial vendor will be used to transduce Spalt-like transcription factor 3 (Sall3) into cultured cells to study its effects on DNA methylation patterns in mouse cells. All experiments will be conducted using Biosafety Level 2 (BSL-2) practices. Laboratory personnel will be trained in the safe handling of viral vectors and all other recombinant DNA materials, and will follow established standard operating procedures (SOPs) for the disposal of contaminated materials and for responding to laboratory incidents. Pathogen/Infectious agent registration for Replication-incompetent lentiviral vectors<br>RegSupport: R-DNA: updated from DE1908230105 to DN1908230105 | P2601200101 | 2 | III-D-3-a | Replication-incompetent | No |
|                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |             |   |           | lentiviral vectors      |    |

## Discussion/Review

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| <b>Protocol Narrative Assessment:</b>      | Acceptable. The proposal adequately describes the experiments to be performed.                                                                                |
| <b>Hazard Assessment and Precautions:</b>  | Acceptable. The proposal adequately describes the potential biohazards inherent in the research program and identifies proper containment procedures and PPE. |
| <b>Training:</b>                           | Acceptable. The proposal adequately describes the training required for personnel to perform the experiments.                                                 |
| <b>Decontamination and Waste Disposal:</b> | Acceptable. The proposal adequately describes proper decontamination and disposal procedures.                                                                 |
| <b>Committee Vote:</b>                     | <b>For: 9      Opposed: 0      Abstentions: 0</b>                                                                                                             |

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| <b>Zack, Donald</b> | Propagation-incompetent rabies virus vectors obtained from other investigators will be used to transduce Cre-expressing and fluorescent proteins into cultured cells to identify and characterize synaptic connection formation under culture conditions. All experiments will be conducted using Biosafety Level 2 (BSL-2) practices. Laboratory personnel will be trained in the safe handling of viral vectors and all other recombinant DNA materials, and will follow established standard operating procedures (SOPs) for the disposal of contaminated materials and for responding to laboratory incidents. Pathogen/Infectious agent registration for Propagation-incompetent rabies virus vectors<br><br>RegSupport: R-DNA: DN0507150121; Human tissue registration: B9811020228 | P2602050101 | 2 | III-D-1-a | Propagation-<br><br>incompetent rabies virus<br><br>vectors | No |
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## Discussion/Review

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| <b>Protocol Narrative Assessment:</b>      | Acceptable. The proposal adequately describes the experiments to be performed.                                                                                |
| <b>Hazard Assessment and Precautions:</b>  | Acceptable. The proposal adequately describes the potential biohazards inherent in the research program and identifies proper containment procedures and PPE. |
| <b>Training:</b>                           | Acceptable. The proposal adequately describes the training required for personnel to perform the experiments.                                                 |
| <b>Decontamination and Waste Disposal:</b> | Acceptable. The proposal adequately describes proper decontamination and disposal procedures.                                                                 |
| <b>Committee Vote:</b>                     | <b>For: 8      Opposed: 0      Abstentions: 0</b>                                                                                                             |

## Amendments

|                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |              |   |           |  |    |
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| <b>Hamacher-Brady, Anne</b> | Wild-type and recombinant Mycobacterium tuberculosis strains obtained from collaborators and commercial vendors will be used to infect cultured cells to study host-pathogen interactions. All experiments will be conducted using Biosafety Level 3 (BSL-3) practices in a BSL-3 facility. Laboratory personnel will be trained in the safe handling of Mycobacterium tuberculosis in a BSL-3 facility, and will follow established standard operating procedures (SOPs) for the disposal of contaminated materials and for responding to laboratory incidents. Amendment for DN1605030110 | DN1605030110 | 3 | III-D-1-a |  | No |
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## Discussion/Review

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| <b>Protocol Narrative Assessment:</b>      | Acceptable. The proposal adequately describes the experiments to be performed.                                                                                |
| <b>Hazard Assessment and Precautions:</b>  | Acceptable. The proposal adequately describes the potential biohazards inherent in the research program and identifies proper containment procedures and PPE. |
| <b>Training:</b>                           | Acceptable. The proposal adequately describes the training required for personnel to perform the experiments.                                                 |
| <b>Decontamination and Waste Disposal:</b> | Acceptable. The proposal adequately describes proper decontamination and disposal procedures.                                                                 |
| <b>Committee Vote:</b>                     | <b>For: 8      Opposed: 0      Abstentions: 0</b>                                                                                                             |

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| <b>Huganir, Richard</b> | Synthetic antisense oligonucleotides targeting SYNGAP1 obtained from a commercial vendor will be injected into mice to modulate endogenous gene expression in the central nervous system. All experiments will be conducted using Biosafety Level 1 (BSL-1) practices. Laboratory personnel will be trained in the safe handling of antisense oligonucleotides, and will follow established standard operating procedures (SOPs) for the disposal of contaminated materials and for responding to laboratory incidents.<br>Amendment for D9009180535 | D9009180535 | 1 | 1 III-D-4-a | No |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|---|-------------|----|

## Discussion/Review

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| <b>Protocol Narrative Assessment:</b>      | Acceptable. The proposal adequately describes the experiments to be performed.                                                                                |
| <b>Hazard Assessment and Precautions:</b>  | Acceptable. The proposal adequately describes the potential biohazards inherent in the research program and identifies proper containment procedures and PPE. |
| <b>Training:</b>                           | Acceptable. The proposal adequately describes the training required for personnel to perform the experiments.                                                 |
| <b>Decontamination and Waste Disposal:</b> | Acceptable. The proposal adequately describes proper decontamination and disposal procedures.                                                                 |
| <b>Committee Vote:</b>                     | <b>For: 8      Opposed: 0      Abstentions: 0</b>                                                                                                             |

**Exempt Amendments**

|                      |                                                                                                                              |   |                   |    |
|----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|-------------------|----|
| <b>Neptune, Enid</b> | Transgenic mice will be used to study lung physiology and disease mechanisms. DN2012090105<br><br>Amendment for DN2012090105 | 1 | 1 Exempt: III-F-8 | No |
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|                          |                                                                                                                                                                               |
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| <b>Discussion/Review</b> | The amendment falls under the exempt category under the NIH guidelines for research involving recombinant or synthetic nucleic acid molecules, so IBC review is not required. |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|