

 **TTUHSC EL PASO**  
Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso  
**CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES OF  
MEDICAL COMMITTEE MEETING**

**INSTITUTIONAL BIOSAFETY COMMITTEE**

**Tuesday, 01/20/2026 12:05 PM  
MSBII 5A116**

**Chairperson**

Mingtao Zeng, PhD

**Board Members**

Anthony W Baird, DSc  
Jeana E. Barrow, DVM  
Huanyu Dou, MD  
Pallavi Dubey, PhD  
Ivan E Flores, BS  
Daniel Gonzales, BA

**Administrative Staff**

Amanda Ortiz  
Myrna Arvizo

| <b>MEMBERS PRESENT</b>                                                                                                    |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Jeana E. Barrow, DVM, Huanyu Dou, MD, Pallavi Dubey, PhD, Ivan E Flores, BS, Daniel Paul Gonzales, BMS, Mingtao Zeng, PhD |
| <b>MEMBERS ABSENT</b>                                                                                                     |
| Anthony W Baird, DSc                                                                                                      |
| <b>STAFF PRESENT</b>                                                                                                      |
| Myrna Arvizo, BMS, CIP, CHRC, Amanda Diazdeleon                                                                           |
| <b>GUESTS PRESENT</b>                                                                                                     |
| N/A                                                                                                                       |

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mingtao Zeng, PhD called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m. Quorum is 5 members. 6 members are present at the call to order, including scientific, non-scientific and non-affiliated members. 6 members present at conclusion.

All proceedings and discussion in the upcoming meeting are confidential and should not be discussed outside of the meeting. Additionally, any member who has a conflict of interest that would preclude making an objective determination about a study should recuse him/herself from voting on the study.

A draft of the meeting minutes from 12/16/2025 was distributed for review on 01/06/2026. There were no controversial entries or objections. A motion to approve the meeting minutes as written was made by HD and seconded by JB. The committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:34 p.m.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

N/A

**3-YEAR RENEWALS**

N/A

**AMENDMENTS**

N/A

**INITIAL REVIEWS**

**IBC# 26006**

**Full Renewal Expiration Date:**

**Mehri Fayazi/TTUHSC El Paso - SOD - School of Dentistry**

**Biosafety Level: BSL 2**

**ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENT:**

**Comment:**

The PI has responded to the concerns of the reviewers. Please reference the stipulations tab section. There were additional revisions requested to the PI. The corrections will be reviewed by the Chair and Reviewers.

**MEMBER COMMENTS:**

**Comment:**

I do not see responses to stipulations. Jan 16, 20263.

**Comment:**

I have not seen the responses to the comments.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** Additional Information Required

**STIPULATIONS:** 1. In the study application section 5.6 provide the full name for GAL and its location. Identify which nerve is being collected and transported. Provide an exact location at UMC, including the department and where the tissue will be processed. Confirm whether the transported tissue is fixed or unfixed at the time of transport.

2. In the study application section 5.1 please clarify what and where you are transporting to UMC.

**MOTION AND VOTE:** The TTUHSC EP Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) reviewed the initial application at their full board meeting and determined that additional information or modifications are required.

Total Members Voting: **7** [ For: **6** Absent: **0** Against: **0** Conflict of Interest: **0** Not Present: **0** Abstained: **0** ]

**SUBMISSION OUTCOME:** Additional Information Required

**IBC# 26006**

**Full Renewal Expiration Date:**

**Mehri Fayazi/TTUHSC El Paso - SOD - School of Dentistry**

**Biosafety Level: BSL 2**

**ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENT:**

**MEMBER COMMENTS:**

**Comment:**

Protocol Type: Initial Application

PI Request: Use of

Space: MSBI 4135, 4160, MSBII 3A204

Biological Agents: Human Tissue

Chemicals: N/A

Controlled Substances:

Biosafety Level: BSL-1

Hazardous Shipping & On-Campus Transport Training: Not required

Recombinant or Synthetic Nucleic Acids: Not involved

Training Compliance: PI is current on required LSE, COI, and Financial Disclosure trainings

**MEMBER COMMENTS:**

**Comment:**

Safety, the PI lists her office. Please review the space requested.

2. Safety/Biological Safety Officer need clarification on locations where samples will be worked with. Section 5.6 states movement from GAL to MSB2 or UMC. What will be the location in MSB2? Currently location on application for MSB2 is an office not a lab.

Movement of samples will require transport training.

In section 5.3, locations in MSB1 do not exist. Application states rooms 4135 and 4160. Fourth floor of MSB1 has rooms 4102 through 4112, no more.

Approval pending above items.3.

**Comment:**

Lay Summary is a clear, plain-language summary. It avoids technical jargon, emphasizes safety, and explains *what is being done and why* for a non-scientific audience. 2. Does any room of MEB involve the protocol? 3. Where is the location of the picture taken after the dissections?4. In 9.4 and 9.5, the Precautions and Procedure" are not well stated.

- Embalming chemicals, such as formaldehyde, significantly reduce pathogen load but don't guarantee complete inactivation, especially for resilient viruses or when embalming was incomplete.
- Procedures that could generate aerosols (e.g., cutting, sectioning) require enhanced containment, even when working with fixed tissue.
- An IBC protocol treats embalmed human tissue with high caution (often BSL-2 equivalent), requiring robust PPE, containment, decontamination, and hazardous waste procedures, mirroring precautions for unfixed human materials due to the potential presence of residual infectious agents.

5. The 9.6 section does not complete with how many materials are expected to be present in the laboratory.

6. The 9.7 section, How frequently will the material be handled in the laboratory is not stated. 7. The 9.10 section, PI provides the statement, but checked "No". 7. The 9.11, fully embalmed tissues may generate aerosol(s). 8. The 9.14, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for BSL1 is not provided.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** Additional Information Required

**STIPULATIONS:** 1. In the study application section 5.1, Lay Summary is a clear, plain-language summary. It avoids technical jargon, emphasizes safety, and explains what is being done and why for a non-scientific audience.

2. Does any room of MEB involve the protocol?

3. Where is the location of the picture taken after the dissections?

4. In the study application section 9.6 section does not complete with how many materials are expected to be present in the laboratory.

5. In the study application section 9.7, how frequently will the material be handled in the laboratory is not stated.

6. In the Study Application section 9.10, PI provides the statement, but checked "No".

7. In the study application section 9.11, fully embalmed tissues may generate aerosol(s).

8. In the study application section 9.14, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for BSL1 is not provided.

9. Safety/Biological Safety Officer need clarification on locations where samples will be worked with. Section 5.6 states movement from GAL to MSB2 or UMC. What will be the location in MSB2? Currently location on application for MSB2 is an office not a lab. Movement of samples will require transport training.

**SUBMISSION OUTCOME:** Additional Information Required

**IBC# 26005**

**Full Renewal Expiration Date: 01/31/2029**

**Raja Veerapandian/TTUHSC El Paso - SOM - Molecular and Translational Medicine**

**Biosafety Level: BSL 2**

**ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENT:**

**Comment:**

The PI has responded to the concerns of the reviewers. Please reference the stipulations tab section. The CV has been uploaded to the PI's iris account.

**MEMBER COMMENTS:**

**Comment:**

Safety, BSO good with responses to stipulations. Good clarification of NO USE of HIV, reducing need for higher levels of containment.

**Comment:**

PI has adequately addressed the reviewers' comments. The revised protocol is recommended for IBC approval.

**Comment:**

Saliva will be collected from human volunteers, but this has not yet been submitted for review by the IRB. The CV of the PI is needed to be uploaded in the iRIS account.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** Approve

**MOTION AND VOTE:** The TTUHSC EP Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) reviewed this protocol at their full board meeting and granted unrestricted approval.

Total Members Voting: **7** [ For: **6** Absent: **0** Against: **0** Conflict of Interest: **0** Not Present: **0** Abstained: **0** ]

**SUBMISSION OUTCOME:** Approved

**IBC# 26005**

**Full Renewal Expiration Date:**

**Raja Veerapandian/TTUHSC El Paso - SOM - Molecular and Translational Medicine**

**Biosafety Level: BSL 2**

**ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENT:**

**MEMBER COMMENTS:**

**Comment:**

Protocol Type: Initial Application

PI Request: Use of

Space: MSBI 3210H, 3210I, 3210J, 3209,3213,3214,3215, LARC- BSL1/2

Biological Agents: Bacteria, Viruses, Fungi, Human Blood, Human Tissue, Body Fluids, Cell Lines

Chemicals: Sodium azide, formaldehyde, zeocin

Controlled Substances: N/A

Biosafety Level: BSL-2

Hazardous Shipping & On-Campus Transport Training: Yes

Recombinant or Synthetic Nucleic Acids: Viral Vectors

Training Compliance: PI IS current on required LSE, COI, and Financial Disclosure trainings

**MEMBER COMMENTS:**

**Comment:**

Request for clarification and revision in the study application:

1. Section 8.2: Please specify what genes (in addition to Reporter Genes) will be cloned into your vectors.
2. Section 8.5 and 8.6: Please specify what immunogenic and biofilm associated genes will be cloned and

expressed in addition to the Reporters.

3. Sections 7.1, 8.1, 9.2, 9.3, and 9.4: It is recommended to use enhanced biosafety level 2 (BSL2+) precaution instead of BSL2 when HIV is used in the proposed experiments.

**Comment:**

The locations for this research have been approved for this and other protocols. There are no issues with work to be done. As mentioned by reviewer, enhanced procedures are a great consideration. Work done in the LARC fall under a BSL2+ lab, but if done at any other location, the following best practices should be considered: containment

**BSL2** Open benchwork allowed for non-aerosol procedures.

**BSL2+** All work must be done inside a [Biosafety Cabinet \(BSC\)](#).

**PPE**

**BSL2** Gloves, lab coat, eye protection as needed.

**BSL2+** Enhanced PPE; often includes disposable gowns and respiratory protection.

Safety and BSO have no concerns with this protocol.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** Additional Information Required

**STIPULATIONS:** 1. Section 8.2: Please specify what genes (in addition to Reporter Genes) will be cloned into your vectors.

2. Section 8.5 and 8.6: Please specify what immunogenic and biofilm associated genes will be cloned and expressed in addition to the Reporters.

3. Sections 7.1, 8.1, 9.2, 9.3, and 9.4: It is recommended to use enhanced biosafety level 2 (BSL2+) precaution instead of BSL2 when HIV is used in the proposed experiments.

**SUBMISSION OUTCOME:** Additional Information Required

**EXPEDITED REVIEW**

N/A

**ADMINISTRATIVE-ANNUAL STATUS REPORTS**

**IBC# 23006**

**Full Renewal Expiration Date:** 01/30/2027

**Jonathan Lavezo, MD/TTUHSC El Paso - SOM - Pathology**

**Biosafety Level:** BSL 2

**ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENT:**

**Comment:**

This is an Annual Status Report. COI, FD, and LSE are complete for the PI and staff. The study does include shipper and on-campus training. This training is complete for those listed in section 5.5 and 5.6. The biosafety level is 2. This protocol does not involve recombinant or synthetic nucleic acid molecules.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** Acknowledged

**SUBMISSION OUTCOME:** Administratively Acknowledged

**IBC# 15019**

**Full Renewal Expiration Date:** 01/31/2027

**Peter Thompson, MD/TTUHSC El Paso - SOM - Psychiatry-Texas Tech Medical Center**

**Biosafety Level:** BSL 2

**ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENT:**

**Comment:**

This is an Annual Status Report. COI, FD, and LSE are complete for the PI and staff. The study does include shipper and on-campus training. This training is complete for those listed in section 5.5 and 5.6. The biosafety level is 2. This protocol does not involve recombinant or synthetic nucleic acid molecules.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** Acknowledged

**SUBMISSION OUTCOME:** Administratively Acknowledged

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|----------------------------------|
| <b>ADMINISTRATIVE-AMENDMENTS</b> |
|----------------------------------|

N/A

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|---------------------|
| <b>TERMINATIONS</b> |
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N/A

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|-------------------|
| <b>BSO REPORT</b> |
|-------------------|

N/A