USNPRC Institutional Biosafety Committee Meeting Minutes, Wednesday, April 15, 2026, 1:30PM-3:30PM

This meeting was held in USNPRC Building 45, Room 205.

New Business –review of registrations involving rDNA

Meeting Call to Order 1:30PM

Meeting attendees: Nick Chaplinski, Nancy Mead, Erica Spackman, Tim Satterlee, Darrell Kapczynski, Marcus Head, Jeff Scarbrough, Taejoong Kim, Ade Oladiende, Lily Lofton, Stephen White
Not present: Doug Waltman (excused)

Committee Chair: Erica Spackman
Biosafety Officer: Nick Chaplinski

Old Business

- Approve September 23, 2025, USNPRC IBC minutes.
  Motion to approve minutes with a minor edit.
  1st Spackman
  2nd Kapczynski

  9 members voted to approve, 2 abstained from voting

New Business

2026-03, Steve Conrad, *Testing viral genes for their ability to inhibit the production of type I interferons* (new submission)

- **Name of agents:**
  Avian reoviruses, Marek's disease virus
- **Objectives:**
  When the cells of vertebrate animals detect the presence of a virus, they secrete proteins called interferons. A strategy widely adopted by nearly all viruses is to use viral proteins to try and disrupt the production of interferons, specifically the type I interferons (IFN-Is)1. Using an avian cell line (HD11) derived from avian monocytes we have developed an assay which allows us to detect when a protein inhibits the production of the type I interferons. In brief, we use HD11 or other cell lines to express a gene of interest and use either double-stranded DNA or mimetics of double stranded RNA to simulate a viral infection and measure the amount of IFN-I produced. If the gene of interest encodes a protein which frustrates the type I interferon response, significantly less IFN-I is produced, and we can detect that using commonly available laboratory techniques.
- **Training**:
  Complete
- **NIH designation**:

III-E

- **Biosafety Levels**:
  BSL-1, BSL-2E

IBC Discussion:
The committee discussed the work described in the registration that the PI provide information on the generation of the lentiviral vector being used, describing safety features, and to indicate how many cell lines will be used. Other revisions were administrative.

A motion was proposed to make the necessary revisions and return the revised registration for DMR review and approval (Chaplinski, Spackman).
1st Kim
2nd Kapczynski

11 members voted to approve this motion.

Review ended: 2:02PM