

RUSH Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC)	
Meeting Date	August 26, 2026
Meeting Time	12:00 PM – 1:00 PM
Meeting Type	Virtual via Microsoft Teams
IBC Members Present	1. Amarjit Viridi, Ph.D. (IBC Chair) 2. Ed R. Blazek, Ph.D., SM (NRCM) (BSO) 3. João Mamede, Ph.D. (IBC Member / Recombinant DNA Technologies) 4. Liudmila Romanova, Ph.D. (IBC Member / Expertise Neurological Sciences) 5. Jennifer Strong (<i>ex officio</i> Non-Voting / Research Compliance) 6. Derrick Swistak (Non-Affiliated Member) 7. Brett Williams, M.D. (IBC Member / Infectious Disease Physician)
Quorum	Quorum was declared by the Chair. The IBC has nine voting members, and five members are required to conduct business. Two members joined after the meeting was called to order.
Other Individuals in Attendance	1. Christine VanTubbergen, MPH (Program Manager, Office of Research Affairs)
Call to Order	The Chair called the meeting to order at 12:01 PM.
Conflicts of Interest	The Chair reminded all members present to identify any conflicts of interest as each application is reviewed.
Review and Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes	June 24, 2026 Motion: Approve the minutes as circulated, with correction to mistyping of a date. Votes: 5-0-0-0 (for-against-abstain-recuse)

Review of Prior Business		
PI Name & ORA #	Application	Approval Date
Mamede, João, Ph.D. 22071201-IBC03	Amendment 02	08/24/26
Berry-Kravis, Elizabeth, M.D. 25032404-IBC05	Continuing Review 01	08/20/26
Berry-Kravis, Elizabeth, M.D. 21070805-IBC06	Amendment 05	08/17/26
Borgia, Jeffrey, Ph.D. 23072101-IBC01 – IBC02	-	Closed 08/16/26
Berry-Kravis, Elizabeth, M.D. 24021304-IBC15	Amendment 11	08/10/26
Berry-Kravis, Elizabeth, M.D. 24090903-IBC09	Amendment 07	08/07/26
Berry-Kravis, Elizabeth, M.D. 23092006-IBC19	Continuing Review 03	08/06/26
Markovics, Adreinn, M.D., Ph.D. 23061601-IBC02	-	Closed 08/06/26
Rios, Eduardo, Ph.D. 16050502-IBC01	-	Closed 08/05/26
Nathan, Sunita, M.D. 21060306-IBC29	Amendment 25	07/31/26
Reiser, Jochen, M.D., Ph.D. 21090207-IBC01	-	Closed 07/31/26
Gupta, Vineet, Ph.D. 22072504-IBC01	-	Closed 07/31/26
Osen, Allison, M.D. 25111404-IBC03	Amendment 02	07/30/26

Spagnoli, Anna, M.D. 17101102-IBC06	Renewal Application	07/16/26
Spagnoli, Anna, M.D. 20031802-IBC03	Renewal Application	07/15/26
Asimakopoulos, Fotios, M.D. 23081106-IBC12	Continuing Review 02	07/07/26
Mamede, João, Ph.D. 24041004-IBC01	Initial Application	07/05/26
Osen, Allison, M.D. 25111404-IBC02	Amendment 01	07/06/26
Pahan, Kalipada, Ph.D. 24101403-IBC01	-	Closed 07/01/26
Miller, Rachel, Ph.D. 19050702-IBC04	Renewal Application	06/24/26
Berry-Kravis, Elizabeth, M.D. 26020605-IBC02	Amendment 01	06/24/26

New IBC Applications for Review	
PI Name	Al-Harthi, Lena, Ph.D.
ORA#	16082904-IBC05
Project Overview	III-D-4 This study will utilize a humanized mouse model to investigate the role of T cells in HIV infection of the brain.
NIH Guidelines Section	III-D-4
Risk Assessment & Discussion	• Lentivirus is an RG-2 agent. • <i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> is an RG-2 agent. • Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) is an RG-3 agent. • A certified biological safety cabinet (BSC) will be utilized. • PPE consisting of lab coat, gloves, reusable rear-closing gown, disposable rear-closing gown, surgical mask, eye protection, shoe covers, and head covers will be utilized.
Training	For nonclinical research requiring IBC oversight, the PI must complete the CITI Initial Biosafety Training course and lab personnel must complete the CITI Basic Biosafety Training course. For research involving human gene transfer, the PI and personnel must complete either the CITI Recombinant Clinical Biosafety Course or the CITI Recombinant Clinical Coordinator course, depending on research activity involvement. At least one individual has current CITI International Air and Transportation Association (IATA) training, if any biohazardous materials will be shipped.
Occupational Health Representative Review (if applicable)	Not applicable.
BSL Assignment	• BSL-2
IBC Vote	• A motion was made to provisionally approve this application pending the following conditions be met: • Addition of signed flow core affidavit • Update to BSC certification date • Inclusion of all listed project personnel under training sections, with descriptions • Inclusion of a statement regarding which individual is qualified to handle experimental animals • Specification of waste types generated and waste disposal methods • Correction to terminology (i.e., ‘multiplicity’ instead of ‘moiety’)

	• Inclusion of HIV strain information • Setting of project end date to April 2029 <u>Votes:</u> • 6-0-1-0 Conflicts of Interest: None.
New Business	a. NIH Releases Draft Biosafety Policy for Research Involving Biohazards for Public Comment, 08/19/26 https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-26-112.html b. White House Releases New U.S. Government Policy for Stopping High-Risk Life Sciences Research, 07/28/26 https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026/07/USG-Policy-for-Stopping-High-Risk-Life-Sciences-Research_July-2026.pdf • Pursuant to Executive Order (EO) 14292 on "Improving the Safety and Security of Biological Research" https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/05/improving-the-safety-and-security-of-biological-research/ Committee members were requested to email any comments regarding the draft policy to the IBC administrator for further discussion at the next convened meeting.
Review of Incidents	Nothing to report.
Inspections/Ongoing Oversight	Nothing to report.
IBC Training	Nothing to report.
Public Comments	There were no public comments.
Adjournment	The Chair moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:46 PM The next meeting scheduled is for September 23, 2026 at 12:00 PM via Microsoft Teams.