RUSH

RUSH Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC)	
Meeting Date	September 23, 2026
Meeting Time	12:00 PM – 1:00 PM
Meeting Type	Virtual via Microsoft Teams
IBC Members Present	1. Amarjit Virdi, 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 (*ex officio* Non-Voting / Research Compliance) 6. Derrick Swistak (Non-Affiliated Member)
Quorum	Quorum was declared by the Chair. The IBC has nine voting members, and five members are required to conduct business. One member 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 12:04 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	August 26, 2026 Motion: Approve the minutes as circulated. Votes: 4-0-0-0 (for-against-abstain-recuse)

Review of Prior Business		
PI Name & ORA #	**Application**	**Approval Date**
Berry-Kravis, Elizabeth, M.D. 24022207-IBC09	Amendment 06	09/22/26
Berry-Kravis, Elizabeth, M.D. 23092006-IBC20	Amendment 16	09/22/26
Berry-Kravis, Elizabeth, M.D. 24090903-IBC10	Amendment 08	09/21/26
Berry-Kravis, Elizabeth, M.D. 24042305-IBC13	Amendment 10	09/18/26
Asimakopoulos, Fotios, M.D. 23081106-IBC14	Amendment 10	09/15/26
Nathan, Sunita, M.D. 21060306-IBC30	Amendment 26	09/10/26
Al-Harthi, Lena, Ph.D. 16082904-IBC05	Renewal Application	09/10/26
Baranwal, Anmol, M.D. 21070206-IBC26	Amendment 18	09/10/26
Nathan, Sunita, M.D. 24061205-IBC11	Amendment 10	09/10/26
Nathan, Sunita, M.D. 19070910-IBC26	Amendment 24	09/10/26
Spagnoli, Anna, M.D. 20031802-IBC04	Amendment 01	09/09/26
Patel, Neepa, M.D. 23091102-IBC09	Amendment 07	09/03/26
Osen, Allison, M.D. 25111404-IBC04	Amendment 03	08/27/26

New IBC Applications for Review	
PI Name	Predescu, Sanda, Ph.D.
ORA#	15090702-IBC06
Project Overview	**III-D-4** This study will utilize a mouse model to investigate female susceptibility to pulmonary arterial hypertension.
NIH Guidelines Section	**III-D-4**
Risk Assessment & Discussion	• Small interfering RNA (siRNA) and a mammalian expression plasmid will be utilized for this study. • No infectious agents will be utilized for this study. • A certified biological safety cabinet (BSC) will be utilized. • PPE consisting of lab coat and gloves 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-1

IBC Vote	• A motion was made to provisionally approve this application pending the following conditions be met:
	  • Additional information regarding vehicle for mammalian expression plasmid, siRNA, and vector map.
	  • Upload biosafety training certificates for all listed personnel.
	  • Address eye protection as part of required PPE.
	  • Any other conditions identified by veterinarian reviewer.
	Votes:
	• 4-0-1-0
	Conflicts of Interest: None.

New IBC Applications for Review	
PI Name	Kirby, Alana, M.D., Ph.D.
ORA#	26031201-IBC01
Project Overview	**III-D-4** This study will utilize a rat model of Alzheimer's disease to investigate the role of microplastics in neurodegenerative diseases.
NIH Guidelines Section	**III-D-4**
Risk Assessment & Discussion	• Adeno-associated virus (AAV) is an RG-1 agent. • Alpha-synuclein should be handled at BSL-2 containment level. • A certified biological safety cabinet (BSC) will be utilized. • Addition of lab rules. • PPE consisting of lab coat, reusable rear-closing gown, disposable rear-closing gown, surgical mask, fitted respirator, gloves, and eye protection 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:
	  • Additional information regarding handling and delivery of microplastics.
	  • Location of micromanipulator equipment.
	  • Statement regarding which staff member will be responsible for animal injections.
	  • Addition of more detailed lab rules.
	  • Any other conditions identified by veterinarian reviewer.
	Votes:
	• 4-0-0-1
	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 Committee members were reminded that public comments on the draft biosafety policy are due 10/19/2026.
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 1:15 PM The next meeting scheduled is for October 28, 2026 at 12:00 PM via Microsoft Teams.