Institutional Biosafety Committee
Icahn School of Medicine Mount Sinai

MEETING MINUTES

MEETING TIME RECORDS	
Meeting date:	1/15/2026 2:30 PM
Meeting time	2:30-3:30 PM
Meeting type	Hybrid / Videoconference
Call to order	2:35pm
Adjournment	3:10pm
Conflicts of interest	The IBC Chair reminded all members present to identify any conflicts of interest as each registration is reviewed.

ATTENDANCE	
Name	**Present**
V. SIMON (IBC Chair; Scientist)	YES
B. LEE (IBC vice-Chair; Scientist)	NO
T. BANIA (IBC member; Human Gene Therapy)	YES
R. BRODY (IBC member; Scientist)	YES
L. CHAUHAN (Biological Safety Officer)	YES
J. COHEN (IBC member, Attending Veterinarian)	YES
H. DONG (IBC member; Human Gene Therapy)	YES
D. D'SOUZA (IBC member; Employee Health)	NO
C. NAPIER (IBC member; Employee Health)	NO
C. SHOR (Local Non-affiliated)	NO
H. FRIEDMAN (Local Non-affiliated)	NO
S. STRAUSS (Legal Counsel)	NO
N. TZAVARAS (IBC member; Scientist)	YES
S. ROSA (Administrative)	YES

QUORUM
The IBC has 10 voting members. 6 members are required to conduct business. Quorum was met.

OTHER INDIVIDUALS IN ATTENDANCE	
Name	**Affiliation / Title**

REVIEW OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES	
Date of meeting minutes	12-18-2025
Motion	To approve the minutes
Votes	(7) For (0) Against (0) Abstain
Result	Approved

COMMITTEE REVIEW SUBMISSIONS

1. Review of SPROTO202500000141

Title:	Neural Control of Food Intake and Metabolism: II
Investigator:	MATTHEW PERKINS
Submission ID:	SPROTO202500000141
Submission Type:	De Novo Renewal
Project Overview:	Laboratory research focuses on understanding how the brain coordinates the function multiple organ systems to facilitate food intake, digestioFn, and absorption. A variety of projects are proposed that examine how gut function modulates motivated behavior, how food intake and immune function interact, how oro-motor behavior is coordinated with gastric function, and how the brain can modulate function of digestive tract to alter the micro-biotic complement of the gut. Approaches used: 1. Anatomical Mapping, using neurotropic viruses 2. Lesioning, using Virus and/or toxins in genetically modified mice. 3. Stimulation/Excitation, uning virually mediated expression of engineered light activated channels or drug activated receptors 3. Opitcal and Electrical Recording, using Virus based cell-specific reporters.
NIH Guidelines Section:	III-D-1-a III-E III-E-3
Risk Assessment discussion	Current registration does not provide sufficient PRV experimental activity and waste management information.
Training	No deficiencies were noted in staff training records.
Occupational Health Representative review (if applicable):	Occupational Health Representative not available. PRV exposure information must be provided.
Biosafety Level Assignment	BL-2
Highest BSL Practices	BSL-2
Highest ABSL Practices	ABSL-2
IBC Vote	Requires post-modification review by the BSO and CCMS. Votes: (7) For (0) Against (0) Abstain Conflict(s) of Interest: None

2. Review of SPROTO202500000125

Title:	Study of serotonin receptors and transporter function in disease contexts
Investigator:	DANIEL WACKER
Submission ID:	SPROTO202500000125
Submission Type:	Initial Protocol
Project Overview:	Research team's goal is a comprehensive mechanistic understanding of GPCR function using a combination of x-ray crystallography, cryo-EM, biochemical, and pharmacological assays. They are mainly interested in understanding how GPCRs are activated, inhibited, and how their activity can be modulated. Of particular interest: delivering biosensors into cells or infect iPSC cells with factors that trigger differentiation into neurons, but also create KO cell lines or modify existing genes using CRISPR technologies or shRNA expression.
NIH Guidelines Section:	III-D
Risk Assessment discussion	No Biosafety concerns
Training	No deficiencies were noted in staff training records.
Occupational Health Representative review (if applicable):	Occupational Health Representative not available.
Biosafety Level Assignment	
Highest BSL Practices	BSL-2
Highest ABSL Practices	NA
IBC Vote	A motion was made to approve the registration Votes: (7) For (0) Against (0) Abstain Conflict(s) of Interest: None

3. Review of SPROTO202500000133

Title:	mRNA-based protein-replacement therapies, immunotherapies, cell therapies, and vaccines
Investigator:	YIZHOU DONG
Submission ID:	SPROTO202500000133
Submission Type:	De Novo Review
Project Overview:	This research aims to develop novel and effective mRNA therapeutics for treating cancers, infections, genetic disorders, and other diseases. These diseases remain a major public health challenge worldwide. For example, cancers and infections are the leading cause of death in hospitals. Moreover, there is no cure, but supportive care, such as physical therapy and medications, for most of the genetic disorders. Therefore, novel and effective strategies for these diseases are urgently needed. Research team will utilize multiple mouse models. The tumor models include subcutaneous tumor models and lung tumor models. The infection models include sepsis and pneumonia models induced by Pseudomonas aeruginosa Staphylococcus aureus to evaluate the therapeutic effects, safety, and mechanisms of promising therapeutics developed by comprehensive research platforms.
NIH Guidelines Section:	III-F
Risk Assessment discussion	No Biosafety or CCMS concerns.
Training	No deficiencies were noted in staff training records.
Occupational Health Representative review (if applicable):	Not applicable
Biosafety Level Assignment	BL-1
Highest BSL Practices	BSL-2
Highest ABSL Practices	ABSL-2
IBC Vote	A motion was made to approve the registration Votes: (7) For (0) Against (0) Abstain Conflict(s) of Interest: None

4. Review of SPROTO202500000146

Title:	Neural mechanisms of social cognition
Investigator:	XIAOTING WU
Submission ID:	SPROTO202500000146
Submission Type:	De Novo Review
Project Overview:	Impairment of social cognition is a defining feature of many neuropsychiatric diseases including autism, schizophrenia, and mood disorders. The major goal of the research team is to understand the neural mechanisms underlying social cognitive processes such as social perception, social memory, and social decision-making. The procedures used include the isolation and dissociation of primary brain cells from rodent brain. Due to the difficulties involved in introducing genes into neurons with high efficiency, research team will use • lentiviral vectors for the introduction and expression of mammalian genes in post-mitotic neurons using stereotaxic injections • introduce guide RNA into the neurons with lentivirus. • rabies virus that is retrogradely transported from nerve terminals to express specific transgenes in specific populations of cells in the mouse brain
NIH Guidelines Section:	III-D-1; III-D-1-a III-D-2-a III-D-3; III-D-3-a III-D-4-c-(2)
Risk Assessment discussion	Current registration does not provide sufficient PRV waste management and replication deficiency information.
Training	No deficiencies were noted in staff training records.
Occupational Health Representative review (if applicable):	Occupational Health Representative not available.
Biosafety Level Assignment	BL-2
Highest BSL Practices	BSL-2
Highest ABSL Practices	ABSL-2
IBC Vote	Requires post-modification review by CCMS. Votes: (7) For (0) Against (0) Abstain Conflict(s) of Interest: None

5. Review of SPROTO202600000001

Title:	Human Islet Infection with Lentiviral Particles for Genetic Studies
Investigator:	ROMINA BEVACQUA
Submission ID:	SPROTO202600000001
Submission Type:	Initial Protocol
Project Overview:	The research team studies pancreatic islet of Langerhans, which are responsible for secreting hormones required to maintain glucose homeostasis. The research is interested in identifying genes responsible for the mature function of these micro organs. Towards this goal, the research team generated a pseudo islet-genetics platform, which consists of dispersion of islet cells and infection with lentiviruses coding for shRNAs, for knock down (KD) of specific genes. These pseudo islets are transplanted under the kidney capsule of immunocompromised mice for measurements of secreted human insulin and immunostaining assays. Understanding processes regulating adult isle function will allow the research team to generate better treatments for patients with diabetes.
NIH Guidelines Section:	III-D-1; III-D-1-a
Risk Assessment discussion	No CCMS or Biosafety concerns. Requires minor administrative modifications.
Training	No deficiencies were noted in staff training records.
Occupational Health Representative review (if applicable):	Not applicable
Biosafety Level Assignment	BL-2
Highest BSL Practices	BSL-2
Highest ABSL Practices	ABSL-2
IBC Vote	A motion was made to approve the registration pending minor modifications. Votes: (7) For (0) Against (0) Abstain Conflict(s) of Interest: None

6. Review of SAMEND202600000001

Title:	Amendment for SPROTO202200000199
Investigator:	ADOLFO GARCIA-SASTRE
Submission ID:	SAMEND202600000001
Submission Type:	Amendment
Project Overview:	Addition of strain of influenza, human H9N2. This is a low pathogenic influenza A virus, BSL3, that will be used in in-vitro and in-vivo experiments. This additional viral candidate for carrying out the aims of the established protocol in assessing the phenotypes of various IAVs in our established animal models to further understand the host-pathogen interactions of these viruses.
NIH Guidelines Section:	III-D-2 III-D-7; III-D-7-b
Risk Assessment discussion	No biosafety concerns for this low pathogenic human strain. Bat strain and human strain work should be separated in experimental schedule. Animal containment location to be provided.
Training	Training to be assessed during annual review.
Occupational Health Representative review (if applicable):	Occupational Health Representative not available. Staff must report illness / symptoms to BSO
Biosafety Level Assignment	BL-3
Highest BSL Practices	BSL-3
Highest ABSL Practices	ABSL-3
IBC Vote	A motion was made to approve the registration pending the minor modification Votes: (7) For (0) Against (0) Abstain Conflict(s) of Interest: None

7. Review of SAMENDCR202500000180

Title:	Amendment/CR for SPROTO202300000124
Investigator:	CAMERON MCALPINE
Submission ID:	SAMENDCR202500000180
Submission Type:	Amendment/CR
Project Overview:	Addition of AAV DREADD virus. This AAV encodes a Designed Receptors Activated Only by Designer Drugs (DREADD) hM3D(Gi)-mCherry which, when expressed in neurons, inhibits neuronal activity upon i.p. injection of clozapine-N-oxide, the "designer" drug. To perform functional experiments to delineate how brain activation influences behavior.
NIH Guidelines Section:	III-E-1
Risk Assessment discussion	Well-written; provided required information. No Biosafety or CCMS concerns
Training	No deficiencies were noted in staff training records.
Occupational Health Representative review (if applicable):	Not applicable
Biosafety Level Assignment	BL-2
Highest BSL Practices	BSL-2
Highest ABSL Practices	ABSL-2
IBC Vote	A motion was made to approve the registration. Votes: (7) For (0) Against (0) Abstain Conflict(s) of Interest: None

8. Review of SAMENDCR202600000002

Title:	Amendment to add Pseudorabies virus
Investigator:	ABHA RAJBHANDARI
Submission ID:	SAMENDCR202600000002
Submission Type:	Amendment/CR
Project Overview:	Use of the pseudorabies Bartha virus for tracing retrogradely peripheral organs that project to the brain or the brain projections to the organs. We will obtain these viruses from NIH Center for Neuroanatomy with Neurotrophic viruses. To verify the effect of pseudorabies virus, we will also inject cholera toxin subunit B injections. The retrograde tracing pseudorabies Bartha virus is used by many labs to determine the neuronal projections from the brain to peripheral organs or from peripheral organs to the brain. The study proposes to trace these pathways to determine if they can be modulated to understand the brain and body interaction effect in stress-related behavioral functions.
NIH Guidelines Section:	III-D-4-a, III-D-4-b, III-D-4-c-(2) III-E-1
Risk Assessment discussion	Research team did not describe cholera toxin subunit used, handlers and exposure hazards.
Training	Corrective actions were identified to address minor deficiencies.
Occupational Health Representative review (if applicable):	Occupational Health Representative not available.
Biosafety Level Assignment	BL-2
Highest BSL Practices	BSL-2
Highest ABSL Practices	ABSL-2
IBC Vote	Requires post-modification review by BSO. Votes: (7) For (0) Against (0) Abstain Conflict(s) of Interest: None

OTHER AGENDA ITEMS

9. Review of IBC Membership:

Description:	Overview of submissions by departments
Discussion:	Members to speak to potential candidates from relevant research departments. Chair will discuss final potential candidates with Dean's Office.

Review of Incidents
Nothing to report

Inspections / Ongoing Oversight
Nothing to report

IBC Training
Nothing to report

Public Comments
There were no public comments