THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY INSTITUTIONAL BIOSAFETY COMMITTEE
New York, NY
August 4, 2026
In Person

Attendees: Leslie Diaz, Gaitree McNab, Charles Rice, Jeremy Rock, Jennifer Rohr, Agata Smogorzewska, Amy Wilkerson

Guests: Sonia de Beaufort, Swathi Chigurupati

Chair's Remarks: The Chair reported that the Casanova Laboratory has closed and his registration (2024-07-008) has been closed. The Chair provided an overview of the U.S. Government Policy for Stopping High-Risk Life Sciences Research that was issued July 20, 2026.

Approval of minutes: The minutes of the April 20, 2026, meeting were approved.

Follow Up Actions from Last Meetings: All personnel from the Brivanlou Laboratory completed the required training. The PI confirmed that there is no work involving marmosets, only marmoset tissue.

Conflict of Interest Statement: Members: The members stated that they had no conflict with items of business in front of the Committee.

Annual Reports (see summary below): All reports were timely received. Staff in the Fuchs Laboratory are past due for training. The Chair will send reminders. There were no questions about the annual reports.

Amendments:
2026-01-011 Paul Bieniasz PI Based Registration: The PI requested approval to build and use chimeric coronaviruses in which genes encoding spike proteins are exchanged. Specifically, they seek to build HCoV-OC43 derivatives encoding the spike protein of SARS-CoV-2 or HCoV-229E, and SARS-CoV-2 derivatives encoding the spike protein of HCoV-OC43. Following review by Ms. McNab and Ms. Wilkerson, the amendment was approved administratively on May 28, 2026, based on determination that the PI had current approval for use of SARS-CoV-2 and for the methods involved in building the chimeric viruses. As is approved currently, this work can be conducted at BSL2.

2024-04-003 Charles Rice PI Based Registration: The PI requested and was granted administrative approval to add personnel to the registration on June 8, 2026, and additional personnel on June 29, 2026.

Initiation of use of transgenic mice prior to notification of the IBC:
The Chair noted that the Chen and Vinogradova Laboratories initiated purchase and breeding of transgenic mice without prior notification of the IBC. This was discovered during review of their renewals which are before the Committee today. While purchase and breeding of transgenic mice is exempt from the requirement for IBC review under the NIH Guidelines, the University policy requires advance notification. Both PIs and the IACUC have been informed of this non-compliance with University policy. Dr. Diaz confirmed that the IACUC has provided reminders to its members that such advance notice is required and should be confirmed during IACUC review. At the Committee suggestion, the Chair will send reminders to all HOLs with PI Based Registrations of the requirement to

notify the IBC in advance of initiating purchase and breeding of transgenic animals if they do not already have approval under their current Registrations.

New/Renewed Registrations

2026-07-001 Priya Rajasethupathy PI Based Registration (renewal of 2023-07-002):
There have been no changes to the covered research activities in the Rajasethupathy Laboratory. The Laboratory has updated their inventory and personnel lists. Research in the Rajasethupathy Laboratory is focused on understanding neural-circuit mechanisms of memory storage and retrieval in guiding adaptive behavior. More specifically, the Laboratory performs large scale recordings and perturbations of neural activity in mice, to understand brain mechanisms for learning, memory, and higher order cognitive flexibility. They use rDNA to deliver genes that act as sensors or actuators of neural activity in behaving mice. The rDNA work involves the injection of a strain of AAV, previously determined to be RG1, encoding sensors and actuators of neural activity, into a certain region of brains of mice. Optogenetic techniques are then used to image or stimulate neural activity in the behaving animal. The Laboratory purchases transgenic mice and breeds transgenic mice for colony maintenance. The Committee discussed that the Sections of the guidelines that cover the experiments include III-D-4-b, III-E-3, III-F-1, III-F-8 and Appendices C-VII and C-VIII, determined that the work may be conducted at BSL1/ABSL1, and approved the Registration.

2026-07-002 Jue Chen PI Based Registration (renewal of 2023-07-001): Dr. Chen has continued to study a class of proteins known as ATP-binding cassette. The Laboratory clones transport genes of interest from both prokaryotic and eukaryotic sources into protein expression vectors necessary for making protein required for these structural studies. The recombinant DNA work involves cloning, protein purification, recombinant DNA expressed in cell culture and cell transfections. They make bacmid containing the gene of interest, produce baculovirus in SF-9 cells, infect RIC cells with the baculovirus, harvest and break open these cells then purify the protein of interest for ultimate imaging by cryo-EM. They have added studies to evaluate tissue-specific expression, localization or distribution of target proteins or experimental reagents of interest, using tissues from commercially acquired transgenic mice (ABCG2). This was done without prior approval from IBC. This finding was reported to the IACUC which subsequently revised its procedures to ensure that Principal Investigators obtain IBC approval for the purchase and use of transgenic animals before IACUC protocol approval. IACUC members were also reminded to verify that PIs proposing the use of transgenic mice have obtained the required IBC approval. The PI has been informed that initiation of the *in vivo* work without IBC approval is a violation of University policy which requires all recombinant or synthetic nucleic acid work, including the use of transgenic animals, to be registered with the IBC regardless of whether the activity requires IBC review under the NIH Guidelines. The PI is seeking continued approval to work with several human cell lines at BSL1. The Committee discussed that the work is covered under Section III-E-1 and Sections III-F-1 and III-F-2, and III-F-5 which are exempt. The Committee determined that experiments with E. coli and Pichia pastoris can be conducted using BSL1 practices and containment and approved the Registration.

2026-07-003 Ekaterina Vinogradova PI Based Registration (renewal of 2023-07-003): The Vinogradova Laboratory aims to discover and develop chemical probes that selectively engage specific sites in proteins to perturb their activity, interactions, and expression in human immune cells. These probes are used to investigate the molecular pathways involved in immune regulation in healthy and disease states. The Laboratory has expanded its research to include chemoproteomic approaches to identify proteins and protein modifications in immune cells and uses engineered

transgenic mouse lines to study protein interactions and protein expression *in vivo*. Their work includes molecular cloning, transient gene expression, lentiviral-mediated gene delivery, CRISPR/Cas9 gene editing, base editing, and recombinant protein expression. The Laboratory also uses plasmid and lentiviral vectors to study protein function in cultured cells and through *in vitro* biochemical assays. Recombinant proteins are expressed using bacterial and mammalian expression systems and incorporate HIS, GST, and GFP tags for protein purification, visualization, and functional studies. Existing transgenic mouse lines obtained from The Jackson Laboratory are used for animal studies. During review of the renewal application, it was discovered that the Laboratory had purchased and initiated breeding of transgenic mice without prior IBC approval. This finding was reported to the IACUC which subsequently revised its procedures to ensure that Principal Investigators obtain IBC approval for the purchase and use of transgenic animals before IACUC protocol approval. IACUC members were also reminded to verify that PIs proposing the use of transgenic mice have obtained the required IBC approval. The PI was informed that the purchase and breeding of transgenic mice without prior IBC approval constituted a violation of University policy, which requires all recombinant or synthetic nucleic acid work, including the use of transgenic animals, to be registered with the IBC regardless of whether the activity requires IBC review under the NIH Guidelines. The Committee discussed that the proposed work is covered under Sections III-E-1 and III-F-8 and Appendices C-VII and C-VIII of the Guidelines. The Committee determined that the work involving lentiviral vectors, HEK293T packaging cells, and primary human cells must be conducted using BSL2 containment and practices and that breeding and maintenance of approved transgenic mouse lines may be conducted under ABSL1 containment. The Committee approved the Registration.

Summary of Annual Reports Due

Protocol #	PI	Change in			Comments
		Materials	Methods	Personnel	
2024-07-001	Leslie Vosshall			X	
2024-07-002	Elizabeth Campbell	X		X	Added Komagataella (Pichia) pastoris.
2024-07-003	Hiro Funabiki	X		X	Added bacterial plasmids
2024-07-004	Hermann Steller			X	
2024-07-005	Daniel Mucida	X		X	Added locations, retroviral vectors and commensal bacteria mutants
2024-07-006	Elaine Fuchs	X		X	Adding LVV plasmids; personnel past due for training
2024-07-007	Luciano Marraffini			X	
2025-07-001	Charles Gilbert				No changes
2025-07-002	Michel Nussenzweig			X	
2025-07-003	Cori Bargmann				No changes
2025-07-004	Robert Darnell	X	X	X	Use of lentiviral constructs CD3z-APEX2 and Pan-APEX2, APEX2 to express in Jurkat cells and primary human T cells for subsequent proximity labeling studies;

					Use of constructs (e.g., pSLED GluA2, pcDNA3.1 (+) IRES GFP) for expression in 293T cells to investigate neuronal function; additional AAVs
2025-07-005	Brian Chait				No changes
2025-07-006	Paul Nurse				No changes
2025-07-007	Jeffrey Friedman			X	
2025-07-008	Sean Brady			X	
2025-07-009	Amy Shyer			X	Submitted registration form, accepted as annual report
2025-07-010	Seth Darst			X	