IBC MEETING SUMMARY

White Oak (WO) Institutional Biosafety Committee

Thursday, January 15, 2026

9:30AM – 12:30PM EST

Meeting Location: Teams

Facilitator: Derek Ireland Recorder: Adaobi Nwoka			
VOTING MEMBERS			
P	Allard, Marc HFP	**P**	Lina, Taslima NCTR
A	Baer, Alan CBER	**A**	Linden, Sara CDRH
P	Bramhall, Elizabeth Comm. Member	**P**	Miller, Mayumi CVM
P	Debrabant, Alain CBER	**P**	Pandey, Ruchi CDRH
A	Gannavaram, Sreenivas CBER	**P**	Papafragkou, Efstathia (Efi) HFP
P	Ge, Beilei CVM	**P**	Perlman, Amanda Comm. Member
P	Inselman, Amy NCTR	**P**	Richter, Taylor HFP
P	Ireland, Derek CDER	**P**	Schwartzman, Louis OOSH
P	Khan, Saeed A. NCTR	**P**	Stantchev, Tzanko CDER
P	Khanna, Marilyn OCS/OSLA	**P**	Tadesse, Daniel CVM
A	Kochan, Travis CBER	**P**	Venkataraman, Thiagarajan (Raja) CBER
P	Krishna, Ashok CDER	**P**	Verma, Anita CBER
P	Laassri, Majid CBER	**A**	Waggener, Christopher T. HFP

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS & OPTIONAL ATTENDEES			
P	Brown, Tracey OOSH	**A**	Lien, Christopher OC
P	Buttke, Thida OC	**P**	Marth, Theresa HFP
A	Degrasse, Jeffrey OOSH	**A**	MacWilliams, Ziven OOSH
A	Dixon, Jeremy	**P**	Nwoka, Adaobi* OOSH
A	Evans, Anissa Comm. Member for NCTR	**P**	Ragan, Angela OOSH
A	Fowler, Joe NCTR	**P**	Reid, Ericka CBER
P	Hadden, Phoebe OOSH	**A**	Sanad, Yasser Comm. Member for NCTR
P	Howard, Michele OOSH	**P**	Snyder, Jessica CDER
P	Kemp, Margaret CBER	**A**	Tremonti, Annette OC

P = Present; A = Absent; CBER = Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research; CDER = Center for Drug Evaluation and Research; CDRH = Center for Devices and Radiological Health; CVM = Center for Veterinary Medicine; FDA = U.S. Food and Drug Administration; HFP = Human Foods Program; NCTR = National Center for Toxicological Research; OC = Office of the Commissioner; OCS = Office of the Chief Scientist; OOSH = Office of Occupational Safety and Health; OSLA = Office of Science and Laboratory Advancement

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I. Meeting Commencement:

- The WO IBC meeting commenced at 9:30am EST.

II. Attendance

- A total of 20 voting members were present, which fulfilled the quorum needed to conduct IBC business.
- D. Tadesse departed early due to meeting conflicts.

III. Review of December 11, 2025, WO IBC Meeting Minutes:

- A. Debrabant motioned for approval of the December 11, 2025 and L. Schwartzman seconded the motion.
- The December 11, 2025 meeting minutes were approved by 16 votes of approval, 3 abstentions from A. Krishna, M. Laassri and M. Miller due to absence/departure from the meeting.

IV. Applications

App. #	Title	Reviewer	NIH Ref	Outcome
13142	Evaluation of Swabs to Assess Contamination of Viruses and Parasites in the Food Production Environment	1. Primary Reviewer 2. Secondary Reviewer	N/A	Approve ☒ Table ☐

*Approval is contingent upon full remediation of application, incorporating all reviewers' stipulations and requirements.

Application 13142 Project Overview:

Section A: Synopsis

- The primary objective of the study proposed by the PI is to develop swabbing methods to detect human pathogens including viruses (HAV, and norovirus) and parasites (Cyclospora cayetanensis, and Cryptosporidium) from a variety of surfaces

commonly found in food processing facilities/farms, such as stainless steel, high-density polyethylene, polypropylene, neoprene rubber, glass, wood, and nylon polyester. DNA is then extracted from swabs and tested by PCR for the presence of pathogen DNA. These methods will help pathogen detection and tracking during outbreaks, especially for pathogens which cannot be cultured in vitro such as Cyclospora cayetanensis.

Section G: Pathogen and/or Toxin

- Cyclospora cayetanensis; Cryptosporidium (C. parvum and C. hominis); Norovirus GII; and Hepatitis A virus (18f).

General Comments from Primary Reviewer:

Primary Reviewer states the application lacks key experimental details. Reviewers' recommendations are as follows:

- In Section A, please add the following details:
  - Application 13142 does not provide sufficient details about the handling of Cyclospora cayetanensis and Cryptosporidium pathogens, except that this work will follow the methodology validated in BAM 19b and 19c and be done in collaboration with another researcher. Please clarify the handling of these 2 pathogens in your laboratory and how the risk of exposure to these pathogens will be mitigated. Alternatively, you may consider removing these 2 pathogens from the current application since the initial studies are focused on the swabbing and detection of viruses, HAV and norovirus. Cyclospora cayetanensis and Cryptosporidium pathogens could be added later by sending an amendment to this IBC for review by the committee.
  - The decontamination procedures described in the current application are not acceptable for Cryptosporidium pathogens. Cryptosporidium oocysts are very resistant and not effectively killed by exposure to 70% ethanol or 10% bleach, commonly used as decontaminants (Weir et al., Applied and Environmental Microbiology May 2002, p. 2576–2579). For disinfection of contaminated surfaces (e.g., benchtops and equipment), the BMBL manual recommends using commercial undiluted 3% hydrogen peroxide for 30 min (Section VIII-C, page 229). Please modify Section A to reflect the BMBL recommendations.
- Section B: Please have all laboratory staff listed in this application complete their safety trainings and obtain OHS clearance. Your IBC application cannot be approved until this has been completed.

- Section G: For completeness, please indicate the origin of each pathogen in this section (Strain, genotype or catalog number, if available). Currently the source of Cyclospora cayetanensis and Cryptosporidium is not clear. Please clarify.
- Section I: Human feces will be used and process using centrifugation, blending/mixing, pipetting and sonication. However, sonication is not mentioned in Section A. Please clarify when sonication will be used and how potential exposure to aerosols containing pathogens is mitigated.
- Please remove "(4,5)" in the summary since the full references are not provided in the application or provide them.

General Comments from Secondary Reviewer:

Secondary Reviewer recommends the PI clarifies several sections in the application. Reviewers' recommendations are as follows:

- In Section A, please correct the following details:
  - Define "DEUF" in layman (simple language).
  - Change "capped rotor" to biocontainment rotor – must use properly sealed rotors for human specimens. Rotors can be capped but not sealed.
  - Please correct tittered/tittering to titered/titering or titrate/titration.
  - Include contact time for decontamination with bleach for each agent. Contact time should be agent specific. The bacterial pathogens in the application require significant contact time with bleach for decontamination.
  - For decontamination of biosafety cabinet, please include following bleach with 70 % ethanol (to prevent damage to steel in the BSC).
  - Exposure from gloves is a concern. Please indicate that gloves will be removed and sealed in a waste container inside the BSC. The exterior of the waste container will be decontaminated before removal from the BSC.
- Section E:
  - Define "appropriate PPE"
  - Provide details of lysis of virus (lysis agent used) to confirm inactivation of virus. Inactivation not always complete depending on the pathogen.
- Section G: Under "…containment equipment.." Please include secondary containers for transport and biocontainment rotors for centrifuges.
- Section I: Sonication is list under "techniques" but is not described in the sections above. Please either remove or add descriptions of the sonication procedure (as appropriate)

IBC Committee Recommendations for Application 13142:

- Primary reviewer motioned for approval of application 13142 pending minor modifications. Secondary reviewer supported the motion.
- Application was approved by 18 votes of approval, 0 votes of disapproval, and 1 abstention due to involvement in the study.

V. Meeting Adjournment: The IBC meeting was adjourned at 10:07am EST.

VI. Next IBC Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for February 19, 2026.