



Institutional Biosafety Committee
University of Arizona
August 20, 2025
Zoom
10:00AM – 11:00AM
Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Dr. Michael Riehle, Dr. David Besselsen, Ceasar Ramirez, Dr. Kathryn O’Connell, Dr. Judith Brown, Dr. Lynn Stone, Patricia Gundy, Dr. Anita Koshy, Dr. Mrinalini Kala, , Hien Trinh, , Dr. Michael Riggs, Lauren Melcher

Non-members’ Present: Leon Harris, Marcy Milbrant, Mariette Marsh

Members Absent: Rhonda Evans, Dr. Samuel Campos, Jennifer Uhrlaub, Dr. Jonathan Sexton

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM

1. Review of the previous meeting minutes: July 16, 2025
2. Biosafety Level 2 (Non-rNucleic Acid) Applications
 - a. Colleen Janczak, PhD, Surgery- Ceria TX, Approval No. 12494
Protocol Title: Nanoparticle Uptake by and Effect on Monocyte Cells
Agents: Human peripheral blood mononuclear cells

The Committee approved your protocol.
 - b. Minkyu Kim, PhD, Biomedical / Materials Science Engineer, Approval No. 12326
Protocol Title: Experimental demonstration of sound-induced topological biological signal of cells.
Agents: Cell lines (human)

The Committee approved your protocol with edits to the protocol application:

- The removal of UV sterilization from the application. Both the NIH and CDC dismiss UV as a viable sterilization option.
- Deleting the decontamination steps from the application:
 - 70% ethanol → UV irradiation → 10% bleach
- And following this order for decontamination:
 - 10% bleach → 70% alcohol wipes or water to clean the bleach residue from surfaces

3. Biosafety Level 2 (Non-Exempt-rNucleic Acid) Application

a. Kristin Huntoon, DO, PhD, Neurosurgery, Approval No. 12493

Protocol Title: Investigating the Tumor Microenvironment Surrounding Glioblastoma

Agents: Cell Line (human), Cell Line (mouse), Human tissue, blood or cerebrospinal fluid

This protocol falls under NIH Guidelines III-D-4

The Committee approved your protocol with edits to the protocol application:

- In section G4, the committee would like the following verbiage added to the local transportation between animal facility and lab for the containment, “To be transported in a hard sided, leak proof container with absorbent material that is marked properly to show that it contains biohazardous material.”
- In section G4, it is mentioned that shipping will occur. If the lab is planning on shipping biohazardous material to other entities, the Committee is requesting that it is stated that shipping training offered through Edge will be completed before shipping occurs.
- In section G6, there is mention of 1% Professional Lysol sanitizer. The Committee is wanting the deletion of the 1% Lysol as a sanitizer, unless there can be documented effectiveness of such chemical as a disinfectant with agents being used.

b. Michael Worobey, PhD, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Approval No. 12140

Protocol Title: Rapid Diagnostics for Multiple Pathogens

Agents: SARS-CoV-2, Mycobacterium spp., Influenza viruses (including synthetic H5N1 DNA/RNA), Salmonella spp., Neisseria gonorrhoeae, Chlamydia spp.

This protocol falls under NIH Guidelines III-D

*Patricia Gundy abstained from this review and voting of this protocol due to her working in Dr. Worobey’s laboratory.

The Committee has tabled your protocol application until next IBC meeting on September 17, 2025, and is requesting more information on the following items:

- Please indicate which specific infectious BSL-2 pathogens will be acquired and used, and whether any of these agents will be cultivated/propagated in your lab.
- Please clarify if the Mycobacterium spp. would include infectious M. tuberculosis. Please clarify if there would be any aerosol generating activities with Mtb that would need to be handled at BSL-3.
- Ceasar Ramirez will also work with your lab to have the correct biosafety levels for SARS-CoV-2 RNA, as well as the other agents.

4. Human Subjects

a. Geoffrey Block, MD, Thomas D. Boyer Liver Institute

Protocol Title: a phase 3, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled study evaluating the safety and efficacy of efruxifermin in subjects with compensated cirrhosis due to nonalcoholic steatohepatitis (nash)/metabolic dysfunction-associated steatohepatitis (mash)

Product: Efruxifermin (EFX)

Recommended BSL: 1

The Committee granted full approval.

5. Advisements
 - a. Shaowen Bao, PhD, Physiology, Approval No. 12282
Protocol Title: Genetic, optogenetic and chemical genetic investigation of auditory brain circuits
Agents: Tissue (human)
 - b. Deveroux Ferguson, PhD, CoM-PHX, Approval No. 11065
Protocol Title: Novel Role of Sirtuin Signaling Mechanisms and Downstream Targets in Depression
Agents: Pseudorabies virus (PRV)- replication deficient
 - c. Steven Goldman, MD, Medicine-Surgery, Approval No. 12153
Protocol Title: Cellular Function in Heart Failure: Cell-Based Therapy with a Matrix Graft; BSL Cell Culture Biosafety Level 2 Laboratory Procedure; Stem Cell Product Development; Treatment of Heart Failure Using Cardiac Stem Cells in Swine: GLP
Agents: Blood (human)
 - d. James Liao, MD, Medicine, Approval No. 12452
Protocol Title: Lentiviral transduction of mammalian cells
Agents: AAV
6. Compliance Review Issues
 - a. The audit report for July- August 2025.
 - b. Incident(s): None.
7. Old Business
 - a. Dr. Date's Response: see attached email
 - Committee members were satisfied with the response provided by Dr. Date.
 - b. Dr. McGee's Response: see attached email
 - Committee members were satisfied with the response provided by Dr. McGee.
 - c. Dr. Ardehali's Response: see attached email
 - Committee members were satisfied with the response provided by Dr. Ardehali.
8. New Business
 - a. DHS-FEMA inspection: Ceasar
 - BSO provided information on how the inspection went to the Committee and noted that DHS has 30 business days to respond to any items that need to be corrected on the UA biosafety and biosecurity plans. Once received, BSO has 30 business days to respond to the necessary edits required by DHS.
 - b. Dr. Jiahuai Hu's biosafety approval
 - The Committee conditionally approved Dr. Hu's plant biosafety protocol. Dr. Hu has 90 days to complete the conditions set forth by BSO through RLSS and conditions set by the IBC.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 17, 2025 via Zoom.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 AM.

Prepared by: Ceasar Ramirez

Reviewed by:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael Riehle". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Michael" and last name "Riehle" clearly distinguishable.

Michael Riehle, PhD
Chair, Institutional Biosafety Committee