

Institutional Biosafety Committee
University of Arizona
January 21, 2026
Zoom
10:00AM – 11:00AM
Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Dr. Michael Riehle, Dr. David Besselsen, Ceasar Ramirez, Dr. Judith Brown, Patricia Gundy, Dr. Mrinalini Kala, Jennifer Uhrlaub, Hien Trinh, Marcy Milbrandt, Dr. Kathryn O'Connell, Dr. Jonathan Sexton

Non-members' Present: None.

Members Absent: Lauren Melcher, Dr. Lynn Stone, Dr. Anita Koshy

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 AM

1. Review of the previous meeting minutes: December 17, 2025
2. Biosafety Level 2 (Non-rNucleic Acid) Applications
 - a. Jacob D Negrey, PhD, Anthropology, Approval No. 12504
Protocol Title: Multisystem aging patterns in wild chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes schweinfurthii*)
Agents: Chimpanzee urine and fecal samples

The Committee decided to table your protocol and request more information as follows:

- Provide information on the field work that will be occurring while in Uganda (i.e. how field collection will occur, PPE usage, will there be a local guide to aid the group, what are the safety procedures, etc.)
 - When available, provide standard operating procedures (SOPs) for protocols
 - When available, provide permits
- b. Luisa Inker, PhD, Soil, Water & Environmental Science, Approval No. 12424
Protocol Title: Antiviral Effectiveness of an Air and Surface Purifying Device
Agents: Porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome virus, Modified Vaccinia Ankara, Vaccinia Virus

The Committee provisionally approved your protocol and wanted clarification(s):

- Will the protocol be working with both, but separate agents, of modified vaccinia Ankara virus and vaccinia virus?
- If working separately with vaccinia virus, the Committee wanted to ensure that you were aware that there is a vaccine for this agent and would be made available to any worker working with the virus.
- Provide in detail what PPE will be used.
- For liquid waste, please ensure that the final concentration of bleach is 10%, as there is no mention of this in application.

- c. Jennifer Uhrlaub, MS, Immunobiology, Approval No. 12506
Protocol Title: Immune Responses to Infection and Vaccination
Agents: see list on application

The Committee approved your protocol.

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

- a. Luisa Inker, PhD, Soil, Water & Environmental Science, Approval No. 13013
Protocol Title: Antiviral Effectiveness of an Air and Surface Purifying Device
Agents: Avian influenza A (H5N1), Cell Line (dog- MDCK)

The Committee approved your protocol.

- b. Jennifer Uhrlaub, MS, Immunobiology, Approval No. 13017
Protocol Title: Immune Responses to Infection and Vaccination: The High-Containment
Version
Agents: Chikungunya virus, Japanese encephalitis virus (Nakayama strain)

The Committee approved your protocol.

4. Human Subjects

- a. Firas Kaddouh, MD, MHS, University of Arizona-Neurology
Protocol Title:
1. A Phase 3, Randomized, Double-Blinded, Double-Dummy Study Evaluating the Efficacy and Safety of Intravenous Empasiprubart Versus Intravenous Immunoglobulin in Adults With Chronic Inflammatory Demyelinating Polyneuropathy
2. A Phase 3, Randomized, Double-Blinded, Placebo-Controlled Study Evaluating the Efficacy and Safety of Empasiprubart IV in Adults With Chronic Inflammatory Demyelinating Polyneuropathy

Product: Empasiprubart (ARGX-117)

Biosafety Level: 1

The Committee has tabled both human subject protocols and is requesting the following:

- Please clarify how the drug will be administered as in the protocol it states that the product is in a kit but then states both for IV and subcutaneous use.
- Please provide information in sections titled "Spill/Splash/Aerosol/Needle Stick Hazards" and "Staff Training Requirements" as the Committee agreed that the sections did not have enough information provided.
- Please provide information that if there is an accident and/or incident, what departments will be notified.
- Please refer to attached document for information required highlighted in red ink.

5. Advisements

- a. Ashley Snider, PhD, Nutritional Sciences, Approval No. 12401
Protocol Title: Cellular Sphingolipids and Normal Physiological Processes
Agents: Adeno-Associated Virus

6. Compliance Review Issues
 - a. The audit report for December 2025 through January 2026
 - b. Incident(s): None.

7. Old Business
 - a. Dr. Combrink response- The Committee members approved response(s) sent by PI.
 - b. Dr. Zhang response- The Committee members approved response(s) sent by PI.
 - c. Dr. Tan response- The Committee members approved response(s) sent by PI.
 - d. Dr. Thatcher response- The Committee members approved response(s) sent by PI.

8. New Business
 - a. Dr. Sadek- closing clinical trial notification
 - The Committee acknowledges that there were no enrolled participants and no product was received. Therefore, the Committee accepts and recognizes the closure of this Human Subjects protocol.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 18, 2026, via Zoom.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50AM.

Prepared by: Ceasar Ramirez

Reviewed by:



Michael Riehle, PhD
Chair, Institutional Biosafety Committee