

Institutional Biosafety Committee
University of Arizona
April 15, 2026
Zoom
10:00AM – 11:00AM
Meeting Minutes

Members' Present: Dr. David Besselsen, Ceasar Ramirez, Dr. Mrinalini Kala, Jennifer Uhrlaub, Hien Trinh, Dr. Jonathan Sexton, Marcy Milbrandt

Non-members' Present: None.

Members Absent: Dr. Michael Riehle, Dr. Judith Brown, Patricia Gundy, Dr. Kathryn O'Connell, Dr. Anita Koshy, Dr. Lynn Stone, Lauren Melcher

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM

1. Review of the previous meeting minutes: March 18, 2026
 - Minutes approved by the Committee
2. Biosafety Level 2 (Non-rNucleic Acid) Applications
 - a. Aaron Scott, MD, Medicine, Approval No. 12510
Protocol Title: Multiple Nuclear Medicine Clinical Trials
Agents: Human- blood, urine, salica

The Committee approved your protocol.

- b. Arun Dhar, PhD, Animal and Comparative Biomedical Sciences, Approval No. 12340
Protocol Title: A retrospective assessment of *C. parvum* population stability during serial passage in calves.
Agents: *Cryptosporidium parvum*

The Committee approved your protocol but is requesting additional information:

- Please provide what type of biosafety cabinet is being used (Class II (A1, A2, B1, B2)).
- Please provide a copy of the required USDA APHIS permit for shipping. If a permit has not been approved, please begin the process of obtaining one and send a copy to Ceasar Ramirez.

Please send your response to Ceasar Ramirez at cramirez82@arizona.edu.

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

a. Anantha Harijith, MD, Pediatrics, Approval No. 12509

Protocol Title: Harijith breeding and experimental protocol - Mechanisms of neonatal lung disease

Agents: Cell Lines (human), Tissue (mouse)

This protocol falls under NIH Guidelines III-D-2

The Committee approved your protocol.

b. Mohab Ibrahim, MD, PhD, Anesthesiology, Approval No. 11082

Protocol Title: Identifying the role of the periaqueductal gray in mediating traumatic brain injury-induced thermal and mechanical hypersensitivity reduction after green light exposure.

Agents: HIV-1 BaL gp120 Recombinant Protein, Recombinant DNA/RNA Plasmids, Adeno-Associated Virus Vector (AAV), Lentiviral Vector (LVV)

Building (B/0221.00): Life Sciences North R/604, 605, 607, 608, 610

This protocol falls under NIH Guidelines III-D-4

The Committee approved your protocol but is requesting the type of biosafety cabinet being used, Class II (A1, A2, B1, B2).

c. Yi Tan, PhD, CoM-Phx, Approval No. 12511

Protocol Title: Growth factors prevent metabolic syndrome- or cancer therapy-induced cardiovascular diseases.

Agents: Adeno-associated virus, Adenovirus, Cell Lines (human, rat, mouse), Cells (human, mouse)

This protocol falls under NIH Guidelines III-D-2

The Committee approved your protocol but is requesting edits to your protocol:

- The removal of 70% ethanol as chemical disinfection in Section G6 (may be used to rid bleach residue, but not as a form of disinfection)
- The removal of autoclaving animal waste in Section G5, as this is not done in the animal facility

4. Human Subjects

a. Firas Kaddouh, MD, University of Arizona-Neurology

Protocol Title: A Phase 2, Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled Trial to Evaluate the Safety, Tolerability, and Efficacy of TAK-755 in Acute Ischemic Stroke

Product: TAK-755

BSL-1

The Committee has granted full approval.

b. Firas Kaddouh, MD, University of Arizona-Neurology

Protocol Title: An ISA to Master Protocol ARGX-999-2-MG-2000 for an Exploratory, Phase 2a, Proof-of-Concept Study to Evaluate the Safety, Tolerability, and Efficacy of Empasiprubart IV as Add-On Therapy to Efgartigimod IV in Participants With AChR-Ab Seropositive Generalized Myasthenia Gravis With a Partial Clinical Response to Efgartigimod

Protocol Title: A Master Protocol for an Exploratory, Phase 2a, Proof-of-Concept Platform Study to Evaluate the Safety, Tolerability, and Efficacy of Multiple Regimens in Participants With Myasthenia Gravis

Product: ARGX-999-2-MG-200

BSL-1

The Committee has granted full approval for both studies.

5. Advisements

a. Kenneth Liechty, MD, Surgery, Approval No. 12443

Protocol Title: Modulation of Inflammatory Response with Nanoceria in Multiple Disease Models

Agents: Human- cell lines and tissue

The Committee agreed to the addition of this agent but BSO needs to update form to list agents as a human hazard.

6. Compliance Review Issues

a. The audit report for March- April 2026

b. Incident(s): None.

7. Old Business

a. Dr. Yoon response- see attachment

- Committee members reviewed and approved the responses sent by PI.

b. Dr Teske response- see attachment

- Committee members reviewed and approved the responses sent by PI.

8. New Business

a. Do labs working with Complete Freund's Adjuvant (CFA- contains heat killed Mtb) and/or Freund's Incomplete Adjuvant (IFA- does not contain Mtb) require a biosafety approval?

- After extensive discussion, the Committee agreed to treat CFA as a biosafety level 1 agent independently of other agents potentially listed on a biosafety protocol(s). This would allow the BSO to have documentation of usage. With this documentation, the BSO will enter this protocol into Chester so that EH&S biosafety and chemical safety can do annual audits for the protocol(s). Occupational Health and Safety will also be able to provide proper education to each user/worker that works with CFA but can also provide guidance if there is a needlestick, since CFA requires a specialized first aid response.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 20, 2026, via Zoom.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:54AM.

Prepared by: Ceasar Ramirez

Reviewed by:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David Besselsen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D".

David Besselsen, DVM, PhD
Vice Chair, Institutional Biosafety Committee