THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
Environmental Health & Safety

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Institutional Biosafety Committee
University of Arizona
March 18, 2026
Zoom
10:00AM – 11:00AM
Meeting Minutes

Members' Present: Dr. Michael Riehle, Ceasar Ramirez, Dr. Judith Brown, Patricia Gundy, Dr. Mrinalini Kala, Jennifer Uhrlaub, Hien Trinh, Dr. Anita Koshy, Dr. Lynn Stone, Lauren Melcher

Non-members' Present: None.

Members Absent: Dr. David Besselsen, Dr. Jonathan Sexton, Dr. Kathryn O'Connell, Marcy Milbrandt

The meeting was called to order at 10:01 AM

1. Review of the previous meeting minutes: February 18, 2026
   - BSO changed Dr. Schimmel's approval from BSL3 to BSL2

2. Biosafety Level 2 (Non-rNucleic Acid) Applications
   a. Jeong-Yeol Yoon, PhD, Agricultural & Biosystems Engineering, Approval No. 12079
   Protocol Title: Gut Microbiome Bacteria Culture
   Agents: Parabacteroides distasonis, Bacillus subtilis, Bacteroides ovatus, Lacticaseibacillus rhamnosus, Clostridium sporogenes, Bacteroides thetaiotaomicron, Fusobacterium nucleatum subsp. nucleatum Knorr, Bacteroides fragilis

   The Committee approved your protocol but wanted a few edits to the protocol:
   - The addition of Fecal (Human) to list of biohazard agents. (section B)
   - The removal of "Following centrifugation, the rotor/safety cups will remain closed for 5–10 minutes before removal to allow aerosols to settle." (section G3)
   - The addition of opening all safety-cup(s) within a biosafety cabinet. (section G3)
   - The removal of securing with parafilm and discard all solid waste in double bagged biohazardous bag (if potential for liquid seepage within bag, place absorbent material within biohazard bags. (section G5)
   - Ensure fecal matter is 100% liquid and treat as liquid waste.

   If you agree to these edits, contact Ceasar Ramirez at cramirez82@arizona.edu and he will include the acknowledgement within the packet.

b. 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)

The Committee has tabled your biosafety protocol and is requesting more information be provided on how the human cell lines will be used within this protocol.

Please send the requested information to Ceasar Ramirez at cramirez82@arizona.edu and he will include it in April's IBC Meeting.

c. Jennifer Teske, PhD, Nutritional Sciences, Approval No. 11069
Protocol Title: Course-based undergraduate research experience
Agents: Urine (human), Saliva (human)

The Committee approved your protocol but wanted a few clarifications/edits to the protocol:

- How are the samples being received?
- For the disposal of urine, delete the "Urine will be flushed down the toilet (section 5)" and follow these steps:
  - once sample has been used/tested→dispose down drain→followed with running water for 5 minutes→spray sink with 10% bleach once urine has been cleared from sink→rinse with water.

Please send your response to Ceasar Ramirez at cramirez82@arizona.edu and he will include the acknowledgement within the packet.

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

   This protocol falls under NIH Guidelines III-D-4

   The Committee tabled the biosafety protocol and is requesting more information on:

   - Please provide clarification on biosafety procedures (i.e. what happens after the mice are injected with biosafety agents, how samples are collected, stored)
   - The removal of the use of a chemical fume hood throughout the protocol as a fume hood does not provide protection to the user of the biohazardous agents.

   Please send the requested information to Ceasar Ramirez at cramirez82@arizona.edu and he will include it in April's IBC Meeting.

4. Biosafety Level 3 (Non-rNucleic Acid) Applications
   a. Yin Chen, PhD, Pharmacology and Toxicology, Approval No. 13014
      Protocol Title: Antiviral Drug Testing for MERS Infection
      Agents: MERS virus BAC clones (DNA)

      The Committee has tabled your biosafety protocol and is requesting more information be provided regarding:
      - Providing more detailed experimental protocol(s) and procedures, including handling and transformation of the MERS virus BAC clones.

      The Committee is also requiring a new CDC Import Permit be completed for the MERS virus BAC closes as the existing CDC Import Permit is only for "isolates/cultures," and would need to state for "Nucleic acids encoding." Please submit a new application in BioPermit with the MERs virus BAC clone that you will be obtaining from Dr. Perlman.

      If you would like to set up a Zoom call to discuss this protocol with IBC members, please contact Ceasar Ramirez at cramirez82@arizona.edu and provide a few dates and times to have the discussion.

      Please also send protocol details to Ceasar Ramirez.

5. 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 granted fill approval for both studies.

   b. Cori Daines, MD, Asthma and Airway Disease Research Center
      Protocol Title: A Phase 2, Open-label, Multiple Ascending-Dose Study to Evaluate the Safety, Tolerability and Efficacy of ARCT-032 in People with Cystic Fibrosis ARCT-032-02.
      Product: ARCT-032-02

      *This is an amended protocol due to adding a new "Cohort 4" and adjusting dosage to allowing the Sponsor to increase the dose up to 15mg daily from 10mg daily. (see orange highlight areas)

      The Committee granted full approval of the amendments.

6. Advisements
   a. Won Hee Lee, PhD, CoM-Phx, Approval No. 12364
      Protocol Title: Modeling Environmental Contributions to Cardiovascular Risk Using hiPSC-Derived Cells and Organoids
      Agents: Human induced pluripotent stem cells (hiPSCs), Blood (mouse), Cell lines (mouse)

7. Compliance Review Issues
   a. The audit report for February through March 2026.
   b. Incident(s): none.

8. Old Business
   a. None.

9. New Business
   a. 2025 Annual Report
      - BSO provided new matrix numbers and will update the annual report with the current graphs and matrix numbers once he gains access to the editable files.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 15, 2026, via Zoom.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:56AM.

Prepared by: Ceasar Ramirez

Reviewed by:

Michael Riehle, PhD
Chair, Institutional Biosafety Committee