THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
Environmental Health & Safety

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Institutional Biosafety Committee
University of Arizona
May 20, 2026
Zoom
10:00AM – 11:00AM
Meeting Minutes

Members' Present: Dr. Michael Riehle, Dr. David Besselsen, Ceasar Ramirez, Dr. Mrinalini Kala, Hien Trinh, Patricia Gundy, Dr. Anita Koshy

Non-members' Present: None.

Members Absent: Dr. Judith Brown, Dr. Kathryn O'Connell, Dr. Lynn Stone, Lauren Melcher, Dr. Jonathan Sexton, Marcy Milbrandt, Jennifer Uhrlaub

The meeting was called to order at 10:04 AM

1. Review of the previous meeting minutes: April 15, 2026
    - Minutes approved by the Committee

2. Biosafety Level 2 (Non-rNucleic Acid) Applications
    a. Abhijit Date, PhD, Pharmaceutical Sciences, Approval No. 12491
    Protocol Title: Cell Culture and Maintenance Protocol
    Agents: Cell Lines (Human); Cell Line (Mice- RAW 264.7)

    The Committee approved your protocol but has a few edits/comments about the application:
    - The addition of human blood listed under agents, as it is mentioned in the protocol.
    - The recommendation that when handling BSL2 agents within a biosafety cabinet, face shields are not required since a biosafety cabinet, when worked in properly, provides adequate protection for worker(s).
    - The editing in section G5 to read that micro-pipette tips are disposed of in hard walled containers such as cardboard boxes.

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

    b. Yin Chen, PhD, Pharmacology and Toxicology, Approval No. 12129
    Protocol Title: Immune responses to SARS-COV-2 infection
    Agents: Human SARS-COV-2, Mouse adapted SARS-COV-2

    The Committee approved your protocol.

c. 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

*This protocol was previously tabled at January 2026 meeting requiring the following:

- 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

The Committee approved your protocol but is requesting your University of Arizona's IACUC protocol so EHS-Biosafety has a copy available for the IBC. Please send the protocol to Ceasar Ranirez at cramirez82@arizona.edu.

d. Nipavan Chiamvimonvat, MD, CoM-PHX, Approval No. 12512
Protocol Title: Molecular and cellular mechanisms underpinning cardiovascular disease
Agents: Cell Lines (human), Stem cells (human), Adeno associated vector (AAV-9)

The Committee provisionally approved your protocol. The Committee is requesting more information regarding the following items:

- Since adeno associated vector (AAV) will be used, this falls under the NIH Guidelines Section III-D-4-a, "Experiments Involving Whole Animals," please provide detailed AAV experimentation.
- Please clarify and specify what enhanced PPE will be used during surgical procedures.

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

3. 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 isolates/cultures (BEI resources and University of Iowa)

   The Committee tabled your protocol and requested the following action items be agreed to and implementation documented before the approving of this protocol:

   - Ensure yourself and all personnel are current with BSL-3 training and Occupational Health requirements before work can begin,
   - Biosafety cabinets (BSCs) involved with MERS research, including in the ABSL-3 space, must be certified by an outside vendor such as ATC to ensure the BMBL requirements of NSF-49 certified technicians are followed,
   - Shipments of MERS to the University of Arizona must be received by April at Central Animal Facility (CAF) to maintain proper importation documentation as required by the CDC permit,
   - Annual documentation on MERS stocks must be conducted by your designated lab member and provided to April,
   - Stocks and samples must be labeled with the strain and date on the box and on the freezer door to facilitate locating them during a CDC inspection,
   - Submit the approved MTA with Dr. Stanley Perlman to April so she can ensure that the materials to be received are consistent with the permit,
   - Cages must be flagged with biohazard stickers and labeled with virus and strain,
   - Provide and keep an updated BSL3 workers list to April for Cat Card access,

The Committee is also requesting the following items be edited within the protocol application:

- The removal of 70% ethanol as a disinfectant,
- The removal of 100% bleach to 10% final volume of household bleach,
- The removal of the PREempt RTU 15-minute contact time to the manufacturer's approved contact time of 1 to 3 minutes.

Please email your responses to Ceasar Ramirez at cramirez82@arizona.edu before June 10, 2026 to ensure this protocol is added to June 17, 2026 meeting.

4. Advisements
   a. Prabhu S. Arunachalam, PhD, Immunobiology, Approval No. 12467
      Protocol Title: Systems biological assessment of immune responses to chronic infectious diseases and aging
      Agents: SARS-CoV-2, Cell Lines (human)

   b. Yeran Bai, PhD, Optical Sciences, Approval No. 12485
      Protocol Title: Cell Culture and Tissue Handling
      Agents: Escherichia coli K-12 MG1655 culture

   c. Brett Colson, PhD, Cellular and Molecular Medicine, Approval No. 12295
      Protocol Title: Structural Dynamics of Myosin Binding Protein-C
      Agents: Tissue (human)

   d. Malak Tfaily, PhD, Environmental Science, Approval No. 11103
      Protocol Title: Metabolite characterization of mice stool samples to understand the effect of spinal cord injury on microbiome gut and metabolite characterization of pigs blood and burn wounds
      Agents: Regulated soil with plant parts from other countries
      *PI sent over APHIS permit and is recorded in system

   e. Hongmin Li, PhD, Pharmacology and Toxicology, Approval No. 12418 (BSL2)
      Protocol Title: Antiviral, antifungal, and antibiotic development against various BSL2 pathogens including viruses, fungi, and bacteria
      Agents: Influenza A Virus, Puerto Rico/8/1934, vaccinia virus

   f. Hongmin Li, PhD, Pharmacology and Toxicology, Approval No. 13016 (BSL3)
      Protocol Title: Antiviral, antifungal, and antibiotic development against various BSL3 pathogens including viruses, fungi, and bacteria
      Agents: Monkeypox virus clade IIb- non-select agent, LCMV- Armstrong strain

      *Ceasar Ramirez, BSO, will notify Dr. Li to update his SOPs to contain information about risk to potentially pregnant or pregnant women; as well as containing information that there is availability for his lab workers to obtain the monkeypox vaccine through Occupational Health.

      *Ceasar Ramirez will double check with Dr. Li whether LCMV work involves breeding mice, as this may change the biosafety level.

   g. Jeffrey Fabrick, PhD, USDA, Approval No. 11081
      Protocol Title: Genetic and phenotypic characterization of aflatoxin-producing fungi
      Agents: Fusarium spp.

5. Compliance Review Issues
   a. The audit report for April-May 2026
   b. Incident(s): None.

6. Old Business
   a. Dr. Dhar response- see attached
      - For APHIS permit, Ceasar has reached out to USDA APHIS personnel to find out whether C. parvum requires an APHIS permit for shipping. Ceasar has received no response yet.

      The Committee approved the response provided by Dr. Dhar.

   b. Dr. Ibrahim response- see attached

      The Committee approved the response provided by Dr. Ibrahim.

   c. Dr. Tan response- see attached

      The Committee approved the response provided by Dr. Tan.

7. New Business
   a. Potential NIH updates occurring in the next few months
      - Ceasar Ramirez, BSO, provided updates on NIH requirements, noting that the university's current practices already exceed minimum requirements and that there may be future efforts to unify procedures across IRB, IACUC, and IBC committees.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 17, 2026, via Zoom.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:55AM.

Prepared by: Ceasar Ramirez

Reviewed by:

Michael Riehle, PhD
Chair, Institutional Biosafety Committee