

Institutional Biosafety Committee
University of Arizona
August 19, 2026
Zoom
10:00AM – 11:00AM
Meeting Minutes

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

Non-members' Present: None.

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

The meeting was called to order at 10:01 AM

1. Review of the previous meeting minutes: July 15, 2026
2. Biosafety Level 2 (Non-rNucleic Acid) Applications
 - a. Paulina Maldonado Ruiz, PhD, Entomology, Approval No. 11120
Protocol Title: *Borrelia burgdorferi* Tick–Host Interaction Studies
Agents: *Borrelia burgdorferi*

*Previously tabled due to requesting more information on *R. parkeri*. Dr. Maldonado decided to separate the two protocols, that way there is a clear delineation between procedures and PPE.

The Committee approved this protocol but wanted to standardize that if you will have liquid waste, please dispose of using a final concentration of 10% bleach for 15 minutes, then discard down the drain while rinsing sink with water

- b. Paulina Maldonado Ruiz, PhD, Entomology, Approval No. 11120
Protocol Title: *Rickettsia parkeri* Culture and Serological Studies
Agents: *Rickettsia parkeri*, Cell line (animal- vero)

*Response from MIT's IBC regarding *R. parkeri* work in Dr. Lamason's Lab

The Committee approved this protocol but is requesting the following edits to protocol:

- Through discussion and upon further review, the IBC is requesting the removal of the requirement for any respiratory protection (N95, PAPR) and the removal of the use of surgical mask, as they do not provide any respiratory protection.
- The adding of a notification requirement to the IBC for any future off-site shipments of *R. parkeri*.

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

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

a. Taejeong Song, PhD, Cellular and Molecular Medicine, Approval No. 12514

Protocol Title: Investigating the Role(s) of Skeletal Myosin Binding Protein-C in Distal Arthrogryposis

Agents: Mouse Primary myoblasts, Human iPSC-derived myoblasts/myotubes, Cell Lines (mouse-C2C12), Adenovirus (type 5), non-replicative adenovirus

This protocol falls under NIH Guidelines III-D-4-b

The Committee provisionally approved this protocol but is requesting the following revisions to protocol:

- Revise the protocol to remove "when required" and "when applicable" language, specifying that all work must be done in a biosafety cabinet unless a specific benchtop procedure is detailed and approved.
- Add a statement to the protocol specifying that all personnel involved in shipping must have the appropriate training found through Edge.
- Add a statement to the protocol specifying the use of 10% bleach for 15 minutes for liquid waste inactivation, then discard down the drain while rinsing with water.

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

b. Laszlo Farkas, MD, CoM-Phoenix, Approval No. 12515

Protocol Title: Molecular mechanism of Pulmonary Hypertension

Agents: Adenovirus (non-replicating), adeno-associated virus (AAV), human primary cells/ human cell lines

This protocol falls under NIH Guidelines III-D-4-b

The Committee approved this protocol.

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 isolates/cultures (BEI resources and University of Iowa)

The Committee has provisionally approved the protocol with the following edits and contingency:

- Revise the protocol to clarify the method of inactivation validation (e.g., plaque assay) and to add a blanket statement requiring documentation of inactivation for any material (RNA, tissue samples, etc.) moving from BSL-3 to BSL-2.
 - o When inactivation validation has been completed, please submit results to IBC prior to moving from BSL-3 to BSL-2.
- Revise the protocol to refer to the "BSL-3 managers" (currently April) for record-keeping and CatCard Access.
- Provisional approval of the MERS protocol is contingent upon receiving and the review of the pending CDC inspection report.

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

5. Human Subjects

- a. Muhammad Husnain, MD, The University of Arizona Cancer Center

Protocol Title: A Phase III, Open-Label, Randomised, Multicentre Study of Consolidation with a Single Administration of AZD0120, a Dual-Targeting Autologous Chimeric Antigen Receptor T-cell (CAR-T) Therapy Directed Against BCMA and CD19, Compared with Continuous Standard Therapy in Participants with NDMM Who Are Ineligible to Receive ASCT as Initial Therapy (DURGA-5)

Product: AZD0120

The Committee granted full approval.

6. Advisements

- a. Patricia Carino, PhD, Physiology, Approval No. 1293

Protocol Title: Cancer Prevention Clinical Trial Laboratory Support

Agents: Non-human primate -biofluids (serum, follicular fluid)

- The Committee approved the addition of this agent to the BSL2 approval.

7. Compliance Review Issues

- a. The audit report for July- August 2026

- b. Incident(s):

i) Syringes with needles found in trash bin in MRB 340

- BSO explained to the Committee that a custodial staff member discovered syringes with needles as well as absorbent material with blood. EHS is scheduling a meeting with suspected PI and group to discuss the incident and provide information.

8. Old Business

- a. Dr. Chiamvimonvat- see response

- IBC approved the response and granted full approval.

- b. Dr. Sur- see response

- IBC approved the response and granted full approval.

- c. Dr. Burke- see response

- IBC approved the response and granted full approval.

- d. Dr. Li- Hantaan amendment- see responses from CDC, along with literature from BMBL and NIH guidelines and responses from Dr. Li

- IBC approved the addition of this agent to Dr. Li's BSL3 approval.

9. New Business

- a. Follow up after CDC inspections

- BSO notified IBC that pending inspection results have not been received and will provide further information once received and reviewed.

- b. Follow up after USDA inspection

- BSO notified IBC that Dr. Ikner's permit was approved following successful USDA inspection.

- c. Mouth pipetting for animal embryo transfer

- The Committee approved this request; therefore, approving mouth pipetting for embryo transfer.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 16, 2026, via Zoom.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:53AM.

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