



Institutional Biosafety Committee
University of Arizona
July 16, 2025
Zoom
10:00AM – 11:00AM
Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Dr. Michael Riehle, Ceasar Ramirez, Dr. Kathryn O’Connell, Patricia Gundy, Dr. Anita Koshy, Dr. Mrinalini Kala, Dr. Jonathan Sexton, Hien Trinh, Jennifer Uhrlaub

Non-members’ Present: Leon Harris and Marcy Milbrant.

Members Absent: Dr. David Besselsen, Dr. Judith Brown, Rhonda Evans, Dr. Lynn Stone, Dr. Samuel Campos, Lauren Melcher, Dr. Michael Riggs

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM

1. Review of the previous meeting minutes: June 18, 2025
2. Biosafety Level 2 (Non-Exempt-rNucleic Acid) Application
 - a. Aaron McGee, PhD, Translational Neuroscience- CoM-PHX, Approval No.11115
Protocol Title: Neural circuit plasticity and vision in health and disease
Agents: Recombinant adeno-associated virus (rAAVs), Tissue (mouse)

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

The Committee approved your protocol with a few edits and requested information on the protocol:

- Under section C. Recombinant Nucleic Acids, the rAAVs are missing, but Ceasar Ramirez will edit the application to reflect the rAAVs being used.
- Under section G5, there is no mention of liquid waste being generated. Will there be liquid waste generated? If so, the standard method of discarding liquid waste is using a final concentration of 10% bleach per volume used, followed by a 15-minute soaking time, discarding down the drain while rinsing with running water.

Please email responses to cramirez82@arizona.edu and Ceasar Ramirez will edit and update your protocol and provided responses to the Committee at the next IBC meeting.

3. Biosafety Level 2 (Non-rNucleic Acid) Applications

- a. Abhijit Date, PhD, Pharmacology and Toxicology, Approval No. 12491

Protocol Title: Drug formulation Hemolysis Assay

Agents: Blood (human)

The Committee approved your protocol with a few edits and requested information on the protocol:

- In the protocol, you mentioned that all assays will be done inside the biosafety cabinet(s), can you please verify that this is the case?
- Under section G5, there is no mention of liquid waste being generated. Will there be liquid waste generated? If so, the standard method of discarding liquid waste is using a final concentration of 10% bleach per volume used, followed by a 15-minute soaking time, discarding down the drain while rinsing with running water.

Please email responses to cramirez82@arizona.edu and Ceasar Ramirez will edit and update your protocol and provided responses to the Committee at the next IBC meeting.

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

- a. Hossein Ardehali, MD, PhD, Medicine/Sarver Hearsh Center, Approval No. 12492

Protocol Title: Role of metabolic and mitochondrial processes in cardiac and immune function

Agents: Cell Lines (human, rodent), Lentivirus, Blood (human), Tissue (rodent), E. coli, diphtheria toxin, Adenovirus, adeno-associated virus vectors

This protocol falls under NIH Guidelines III-D-1

The Committee approved your protocol with an edit to your protocol:

- Under section G2, the Committee wants the deletion of “Surgical masks used during procedures with splash/aerosol risk” as surgical masks do not provide adequate protection for splashes/aerosols.

Please email responses to cramirez82@arizona.edu and Ceasar Ramirez will edit and update your protocol and provided responses to the Committee at the next IBC meeting.

5. Advisements

- a. Stacy Tecot, PhD, Anthropology, Approval No. 12303

Protocol Title: LEEP- Laboratory for the Evolutionary Endocrinology of Primates: analysis of human samples for EBV, C-RP and Cortisol (Core Laboratory)

Agents: Lemur fecal and urine samples

- b. Hongmin Li, PhD, Pharmacology and Toxicology, Approval No. 13016

Protocol Title: Antifungal, antiviral and antibiotic development against various BSL3 pathogens, including viruses, fungi, and bacteria

Agents: Mycobacterium tuberculosis H37Rv strain

- c. Hongmin Li, PhD, Pharmacology and Toxicology, Approval No. 12418

Protocol Title: Screening Anti-intein Splicing Small Molecules of Fungal Pathogens

Agent: Mayaro virus

6. Compliance Review Issues
 - a. The audit report for June- July 2025.
 - b. Incident(s): None.
7. Old Business
 - a. Dr. Rhine Response- see attached
 - Committee members were satisfied with the response provided by Dr. Rhine
 - b. Dr. Waite Response- see attached
 - Committee members were satisfied with the response provided by Dr. Waite
 - c. Follow up about CFA after talking with Russell Noon- Chemical Hygiene Officer
 - BSO notified the Committee of the guidance that will be provided to labs and workers using CFA kits.
8. New Business
 - a. None.

The next meeting is scheduled for August 20, 2025 via Zoom.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:22 AM.

Prepared by: Ceasar Ramirez

Reviewed by:



Michael Riehle, PhD
Chair, Institutional Biosafety Committee