



Institutional Biosafety Committee
University of Arizona
October 15, 2025
Zoom
10:00AM – 11:00AM
Meeting Minutes

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

Non-members’ Present: Marcy Milbrandt

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

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM

1. Review of the previous meeting minutes: September 17, 2025
2. Biosafety Level 2 (Non-rNucleic Acid) Applications
 - a. Zhongguo Xiong, PhD, Plant Sciences, Approval No. 14001
Protocol Title: Detection of “Candidatus” *Liberibacter asiaticus* (CLas) DNA in plant and insect tissues for diagnosis of Huanglongbing (HLB) disease in Arizona
Agents: “Candidatus” *Liberibacter asiaticus* (CLas), a phloem-limited bacterium associated with Huanglongbing (HLB, citrus greening disease). CLas is a regulated, unculturable plant pathogen transmitted by the Asian citrus psyllid (*Diaphorina citri*)

The Committee approved the protocol.

3. Biosafety Level 2 (Non-Exempt-rNucleic Acid) Application
 - a. Michael Worobey, PhD, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Approval No. 12140
Protocol Title: Rapid Diagnostics for Multiple Pathogens
Agents: SARS-CoV-2

This protocol falls under NIH Guidelines III-D-1

*IBC member Patricia Gundy abstained from voting as she is the lab manager for Dr. Worobey.

The Committee approved your protocol with the addition of providing more information of SARS-CoV-2 in the “Research Objectives” of the application form.

- b. Leigh Combrink, MSc, PhD, School of Natural Resources and the Environment, Approval No. 12495
Protocol Title: DNA / RNA extraction - Hantavirus Project
Agents: Blood (rodent)

This protocol falls under NIH Guidelines III-D

The Committee tabled this protocol while requesting the following information:

- Please provide protocol details for the fieldwork being done (i.e. how rodents will be trapped, handled, euthanized, etc.) as well as what PPE will be worn.
- Please provide any guidance received from CDC on this protocol (i.e. SOPs, permits).

- c. Leigh Combrink, MSc, PhD, School of Natural Resources and the Environment, Approval No. 12495
Protocol Title: DNA / RNA extraction - West Nile Virus Assay
Agents: Blood (Avian), Mosquitos

This protocol falls under NIH Guidelines III-D

The Committee approved both protocols but are requesting and recommending two items:

- Please provide protocol(s) on how the collections of samples are brought from the field to the laboratory. Please include what type of containers, labeling, etc.
- Will the laboratory generate biohazardous liquid waste and if so, how will the laboratory handle liquid waste (standard protocol is to let the liquid waste sit for 15 minutes in 10% bleach concentration, then discard down the sink drain with running water)?
- The Committee is requesting that both protocols be consolidated into one protocol.

- d. Leigh Combrink, MSc, PhD, School of Natural Resources and the Environment, Approval No. 12495
Protocol Title: ELIZA assay - WNV IgG and IgM tests
Agents: Avian blood, serum or plasma

This protocol falls under NIH Guidelines III-D

The Committee approved both protocols but are requesting and recommending two items:

- Please provide protocol(s) on how the collections of samples are brought from the field to the laboratory. Please include what type of containers, labeling, etc.
- Will the laboratory generate biohazardous liquid waste and if so, how will the laboratory handle liquid waste (standard protocol is to let the liquid waste sit for 15 minutes in 10% bleach concentration, then discard down the sink drain with running water)?
- The Committee is requesting that both protocols be consolidated into one protocol.

- e. Asaithamby Aroumougame, PhD, Medicine, Approval No. 12496
Protocol Title: Role of DNA double strand breaks in generation of heart disease
Agents: Human fibroblast cell lines: WRN (Werner syndrome) patient, FRDA (Friedreich Ataxia) patient, Cell Line (Mouse- cardiomyocytes), Cell Line (Rat-H2C9), Replication incompetent lentivirus, Replication incompetent AAV, Tissue (Mouse)

This protocol falls under NIH Guidelines III-D-2

The Committee approved your protocol.

4. Human Subjects

a. Daniel Butler, MD, Banner University Medical-Dermatology

Protocol Title: An Exploratory Proof of Concept Study to Assess the Pharmacokinetics/
Pharmacodynamics of Nemolizumab (CD14152) in Adult Participants with Chronic
Pruritus of Unknown Origin (CPUO).

Product: Nemolizumab

Recommended biosafety level: BSL1

The Committee granted full approval.

5. Compliance Review Issues

a. The audit report for September and October 2025.

b. Incident(s): None

6. New Business

a. Dr. Samuel Campos

- The BSO shared with the Committee that Dr. Campos has left the University of Arizona. BSO has updated NIH roster and received recommendations for replacement(s) by Dr. Campos.

b. NIH Listening Session

- The BSO shared with the Committee the main points from the first listening meeting about how the NIH wants to bridge a gap between the BMBL, as well as include references from USDA-APHIS, FDA and other entities dealing with biosafety and biosecurity.

c. IBC membership renewals in 2026

- The BSO announced that IBC membership renewals will be completed by January 2026. If IBC members do not wish to remain on the IBC, they must notify the BSO so he can work on finding replacement(s).

d. RLSS, Occupational Health and Risk Management will be merging

- The BSO shared with the Committee that the merge will create an Environmental, Health and Safety and the centralized location will be where Risk Management currently resides.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 19, 2025, via Zoom.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:42AM.

Prepared by: Ceasar Ramirez

Reviewed by:



Michael Riehle, PhD
Chair, Institutional Biosafety Committee