Institutional Biosafety Committee
University of Nevada, Reno

Meeting Minutes

August 13, 2025

General Information

- The IBC Chair called the meeting to order at 3 p.m.
- Meeting minutes approved at the September 2025 IBC meeting
- Meeting conducted via Zoom
- Total voting members present: 8; Quorum: 7

Voting Members Present

1. Cam Tran, Scientist/Chairperson, 014
2. Claudia Rueckert, Scientist/Vice Chairperson, 003
3. Seungil Ro, Scientist 016 (alternate for Paul Brett, Scientist, 001)
4. Won-Gyu-Choi, Scientist, plant expert, 002
5. Evan Colletti, Community Member, 004
6. Benjamin Weigler, Scientist/Veterinarian/Animal Expert, 009
7. Keith Kikawa, Biosafety Officer, Committee Contact, 010
8. Andrew Nuss, Scientist, 013

Voting Members Absent

1. Robin Trimble, Community Member, 008
2. Shailesh Agarwal, Scientist, 015
3. Paul Brett, Scientist, 001
4. Jung Hwan Kim, Scientist, 012

Others Present

1. Kristin Eliasen, non-voting committee contact
2. Jenn Thornton, non-voting committee contact
3. Lauren Davie, Administrative assistant, Research Integrity and Security

Agenda for Full Committee Business

Minutes

Review and approval of minutes for the July 9th,2025 IBC meeting:

There were no comments or concerns regarding these meeting minutes. A motion was made by 002 and seconded by 014 to approve them. The motion passed unanimously.

Review Prior Business

None

MOUA Reviews

Three-year Protocol Renewals

B2025-24, Hudig, Natural killer cell and antibody-dependent cell-mediated cytotoxicity, Renewal of B2022-26 (BSL-2)

Summary: The laboratory investigates how natural killer (NK) cells and T cells eliminate tumor cells. The research focuses on the biochemical mechanisms underlying this process and strategies to enhance killer lymphocyte activity against tumors. The current emphasis is on antibody-dependent cell-mediated cytotoxicity (ADCC). Biosafety Concerns: The research uses a variety of human cell lines and monkey Vero cells, which have standard bloodborne pathogen considerations. While NIH Guidelines for Section III-D2 and Section III-E1 apply, only the S protein used in human vaccine generation for SArS-CoV-2 and a truncated form of a human receptor protein that lacks intracellular signaling capabilities in an established cell line Is used. The lab was out-of-date for the required EH&S training courses. Committee members discussed this submission and was satisfied with the PI's response to the initial comments. There was a motion made by 004 and seconded by 002 to approve this renewal contingent on the lab members' completion of the necessary EH&S training courses. The motion passed unanimously.

B2025-22, Jackson, BIOL251-Undergraduate microbiology teaching lab, Renewal of B2022-09 (BSL-2)

Summary: This protocol is for an introductory microbiology teaching laboratory for nursing students that covers bacterial isolation and identification, microscopy, staining methods, microbial metabolism, bacterial genetics, epidemiology, and antibiotic activity. Biosafety Concerns: NIH guidelines do not apply to this application. Some bacteria are classified to be handled at biosafety level 2, but there are no significant biosafety concerns given the limited handling of the microbes by students. The lab was out-of-date for the required EH&S training courses. Committee members discussed this submission. The PI had not responded to the committee's initial comments. There was a motion made by 010 and seconded by 014 to approve this renewal contingent on the PI addressing the IBC's initial comments in a satisfactory way as well as the lab members' completion of the necessary EH&S training courses. Additionally, the PI has been asked to add all the teaching assistants to the MOUA. The motion passed unanimously.

B2025-21, Quilici, NV Proteomics Core Lab, Renewal of B2022-24 (BSL-2)

Summary: This agreement is for a core proteomics facility on campus that performs contract work on human serum samples for analysis. Biosafety Concerns: NIH guidelines do not apply to this protocol. The facility works with human samples and applies standard universal precautions with biosafety and bloodborne pathogens considerations. All lab members are up-to-date on the required EH&S training courses. The committee members discussed this submission and agreed that the renewal was ready to be approved as revised. There was a motion made by 004 and was seconded by 010. The motion passed unanimously.

B2025-23, Tran, Cerebral Blood Flow Regulation, Renewal of B2022-16 (BSL-2)

Summary: The long-term goal is to elucidate how microcirculation is regulated to meet the brain's dynamic metabolic demands and to define the impact of blood flow alterations on neuronal function. The research group employs two-photon microscopy, optogenetics, and chemogenetic approaches to study the interactions between vascular and neural cells using both in vivo and in vitro models. Biosafety Concerns: NIH guidelines Section III-D4 and Section III-E3 apply, but gene products are not associated with any known risks. The laboratory uses a variety of AAVs approved for use at biosafety level 1, as they do not encode oncogenes or toxins. A number of ABSL-1 transgenic mouse strains are utilized in the research, but research practices are well established and present no concerns. The lab was out-of-date for the required EH&S training courses. Committee members discussed this submission and was satisfied with the PI's response to the initial comments. There was a motion made by 003 and seconded by 009 to approve this renewal contingent on the lab members' completion of the necessary EH&S training courses. The motion passed unanimously.

New Protocol Reviews

B2025-20, Ma, Understanding UV inactivation performance and mechanisms in different matrices (BSL-2)

Summary: This project investigates the effectiveness and molecular mechanisms of UV irradiation for inactivating microorganisms. It aims to characterize inactivation kinetics for bacteria, viruses, fungi, and biofilm-associated microbes in various settings, and to identify UV-induced damage to DNA, RNA, and proteins. Biosafety Concerns: The project is does not fall under NIH guidelines. It does use a variety of microbial agents that require handling at biosafety level 2, but appropriate facilities and safety measures are outlined in the protocol. All lab members are up-to-date on the required EH&S training courses. Committee members discussed this submission and had a follow-up comment. The PI has been asked to update section 6T to indicated that 10% Bleach is used for 30 minutes. There was a motion made by 003 and seconded by 013 to approve this renewal contingent on the PI addressing this question in a satisfactory manner. The motion passed unanimously.

MOUA Amendments

B2023-36, Burkin, Regulation of Uterine Contraction and Preterm Labor (BSL-2)

Summary: The laboratory investigates the molecular regulation of uterine contraction during pregnancy and how disruptions in these processes contribute to preterm birth. They are also developing a synthetic model of human uterine tissue to advance these studies. Biosafety Concerns: NIH guidelines do not apply to any of the work evaluated in this application. A variety of human cell lines, human samples, and non-human primate materials from rhesus macaques are handled by the research group, but the facilities and safety practices outlined in the application are appropriate for the work. All lab members are up-to-date on the required EH&S training courses. Committee members discussed this submission and had a follow-up comments. The PI has been asked to update the BSL for mouse, guinea pig, and rat tissues to BSL-1, enter the responses to the IBC's comments into the appropriate text boxes of the MOUA form, and add the IRB approval information to section 3Q. There was a motion made by 009 and seconded by 014 to approve this renewal contingent on the PI addressing these comments in a satisfactory manner. The motion passed unanimously.

B2022-32, Hanigan, Studying the removal of nitrogen, carbon and pathogens from treated secondary wastewater using different techniques (BSL-3)

Summary: The research groups are engaged in multiple projects with local agencies focused on nitrogen, carbon, and pathogen removal from wastewater. These studies explore treatment strategies and technologies to minimize and eliminate contaminants of concern. Biosafety Concerns: NIH guidelines do not apply to this application. The only significant biosafety concern with the protocol is the potential for microorganisms or potential biosafety level 2 considerations for material in the wastewater being handled, and the laboratory groups will be observing universal precautions and receive bloodborne pathogens training. The lab was out-of-date for the required EH&S training courses. Committee members discussed this submission and was satisfied with the PI's response to the initial comments. There was a motion made by 013 and seconded by 010 to approve this renewal contingent on the lab members' completion of the necessary EH&S training courses. The motion passed unanimously.

B2023-41, Verma, SARS-CoV-2 neutralization, antiviral assays and detection of variants on rapid tests (BSL-3)

Summary:

Biosafety Concerns:

The lab was out-of-date for the required EH&S training courses. Committee members discussed this submission and was satisfied with the PI's response to the initial comments. There was a motion made by 003 and seconded by 010 to approve this renewal contingent on the lab members' completion of the necessary EH&S training courses. The motion passed unanimously.

Closed Protocols

None

Agenda for Administrative Business

Administrative Amendments

1. **Burtnick, B2023-19, Microbiology & Immunology Undergraduate Teaching Laboratory-waiting to process due to expired training records**
   Addition of personnel

2. **Burtnick, B2024-11, Development of Subunit Vaccines Against Bacterial Pathogens**
   Addition of personnel

3. **Burtnick, B2023-10, Use of non-select agent Burkholderia to identify diagnostic/therapeutic targets**
   Change in study personnel

4. **Frese, B2024-03, Impact of dietary carbohydrates of key human gut microbes and human epithelial cell lines-waiting to process due to expired training**
   Update study personnel

5. **Lee, B2024-29, Novel and repurposed agents against Candida biofilms**
   Update study personnel

Other Business

None

Meeting Close-out

Next meeting: August 13, 2025

Time adjourned: 3:38 p.m.