

Institutional Biosafety Committee University of Nevada, Reno

Meeting Minutes

March 11th, 2026

General Information

- The IBC Chair called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.
- Meeting minutes approved at the April 2026 IBC meeting
- [Meeting conducted via Zoom](#)
- Total voting members present: 9

Voting Members Present

1. Benjamin Weigler, Scientist/Veterinarian/Animal Expert, 009
2. Cam Tran, Scientist/Chairperson, 014
3. Claudia Rueckert, Scientist/Vice Chairperson, 003
4. Evan Colletti, Community Member, 004
5. Jung Hwan Kim, Scientist, 012
6. Any Martin, Biosafety Officer, Committee Contact, 010
7. Paul Brett, Scientist, 001
8. Robin Trimble, Community Member, 008
9. Won-Gyu-Choi, Scientist, plant expert, 002

Voting Members Absent

1. Andrew Nuss, Scientist, 013
2. Shailesh Agarwal, Scientist, 015

Others Present

1. Kristin Eliassen, non-voting committee contact
2. Jenn Thornton, non-voting committee contact
3. Keith Kikawa, Lab Safety Group Manager, EH&S

Agenda for Full Committee Business

Minutes

Review and approval of minutes for the February 11th, 2026 IBC meeting:

There were no comments or concerns regarding these meeting minutes. A motion was made by 004 and seconded by 002 to approve them. The motion passed unanimously.

Review Prior Business

None

MOUA Reviews

Three-year Protocol Renewals

Santos, B2026-06, Understanding the Functional Role of the Polyacetylenic Lipids Falcarinol and Falcarindiol in Plant Resistance to Necrotrophic Pathogens, BSL-2 (COI: No)

Renewal of B2023-15

Committee members discussed this submission. There was a motion made by 002 and seconded by 008 to approve the protocol once the last comments and training deficiency were addressed. The motion passed unanimously.

IBC Comments:

3I - Please indicate if the non-pathogenic bacteria are in stock/in use as well.

4A - Please add additional explanation for the planned BSL-2 experiments, what was indicated is a little vague and non-descriptive

Summary of work being conducted

They aim to use Carrots as a model organism to identify the biosynthesis and role of falcarins (polyacetylenic lipids including falcarinol and falcarindiol) in the context of antifungal resistance to white mold. They also aim to understand the transcription factor- and pathogen-dependent signaling pathways involved in post-harvest wound suberization (essentially formation of a scab) in potato plants.

This renewal added Dylan Kosma as a Co-PI, changed the department for Dr. Santos to AVRS, and added Mike Teglas as the chair of AVRS.

Biosafety Level

They did not define their proposed experiments involving the BSL-2 organisms, only stating that the BSL-2 work has not begun. Further information on planned experiments prior to approving the work with BSL-2 fungi and bacteria.

NIH guidelines

They have indicated the following sections:

III-D-1: Use of Risk Group 2 or above agent(s) as host-vector system

III-E-2: Experiments involving BL1-P whole plants

III-F-8 (appendix CII): Exempt experiments

Last Assessment and biosafety concerns

Last assessment on 9/15/2025 by Luis Barthel-Rosa (Cody Ryan in Safety Stratus).

Biosafety related findings included the presence of food and food-related items as well as not wearing proper PPE when performing laboratory procedures. The PPE issue remains open, but the removal of food has been completed as of 12/30/2025.

New Protocol Reviews

None

MOUA Amendments

None

Designated Member Reviews (DMRs)

None

Closed Protocols

None

Agenda for Administrative Business

1. Burkin, B2024-52, Muscular Dystrophy
Amendment: Update to study personnel
2. Grainger, B2024-21, Autonomic regulation of coronary blood flow in superior and inferior sinoatrial node
Amendment: Update lab location from AHS 111 to MHS 18.
3. Hanigan, B2025-31, Studying the removal of nitrogen, carbon and pathogens from treated secondary wastewater using different techniques
Amendment: Update to study personnel and adding new use location
4. Riddle, B2024-15, Genetic studies in Mexican tetra
Amendment: Update to study personnel
5. Reuckert, B2025-32, Study of cellular and molecular interactions of arboviruses and mosquitos
Amendment: Update to study personnel
6. Tran, B2025-23, Cerebral Blood Flow Regulation
Amendment: Update to study personnel

Other Business

1. Updated Institutional Biosafety Committee Policies and Procedures Manual (IBC PPM)
The committee reviewed and discussed the updated IBC PPM. This document requires some additional edits and will be reviewed at the next convened IBC meeting.

Meeting Close-out

Next meeting: April 8, 2026

Time adjourned: 4:33 p.m.