

Institutional Biosafety Committee University of Nevada, Reno

Meeting Minutes

May 13th, 2026

General Information

- The IBC Chair called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.
- Meeting minutes approved at the June 2026 IBC meeting
- [Meeting conducted via Zoom](#)
- Total voting members present: 8

Voting Members Present

1. Andrew Nuss, Scientist, 013
2. Andy Martin, Biosafety Officer, Committee Contact, 010
3. Benjamin Weigler, Scientist/Veterinarian/Animal Expert, 009
4. Claudia Rueckert, Scientist/Vice Chairperson, 003
5. Jung Hwan Kim, Scientist, 012
6. Paul Brett, Scientist, 001
7. Robin Trimble, Community Member, 008
8. Won-Gyu-Choi, Scientist, plant expert, 002

Voting Members Absent

1. Cam Tran, Scientist/Chairperson, 014
2. Evan Colletti, Community Member, 004
3. 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
4. David Gillum, AVP of Compliance and Research Administration



Agenda for Full Committee Business

Minutes

Review and approval of minutes for the April 8th, 2026 IBC meeting:

There were no comments or concerns regarding these meeting minutes. A motion was made by 002 and seconded by 008 to approve them. The motion passed unanimously.

Review Prior Business

None

MOUA Reviews

Three-year Protocol Renewals

None

New Protocol Reviews

None

MOUA Amendments

Hudig, B2023-42, Cell-mediated cytotoxicity towards corona viruses (COI: No)

Committee members discussed this submission. There was a motion made by 003 and seconded by 010 to approve the protocol pending an administrative edit to change the response to the question of GDMO use to “No”. The motion passed unanimously.

Summary of work being conducted

Their work aims to identify the role of natural killer (NK) cells in long term control of coronaviruses. They use coronaviruses that cause colds (such as OC-43) and vesicular stomatitis virus (VSV) expressing the S protein of SARS-CoV-2 for their work.

This amendment adds two OC-43 reporter coronaviruses and a wild type OC-43 control to their list of viruses along with the HEK-293A cell line. They also have removed two members of their staff who no longer work at the University.

Biosafety Level

Work with human cell lines, primary cells, serum, swabs, and other material can continue using BSL-2 practices and BSL-2 containment. Any individuals working

with this material must complete and maintain annual bloodborne pathogens training.

Work with viral agents and any cells that will be infected with them can continue as indicated using BSL-2 practices and under BSL-2 containment.

This lab is already working with inactivated virus using BSL-2 practices and BSL-2 containment out of an abundance of caution which is a good idea.

Work with mouse cell lines may continue at BSL-1.

NIH guidelines

They have previously indicated the following sections, which remain unchanged from this amendment: III-D-1 (risk group 2 agents as host/vectors) III-D-2 (DNA from a risk group 2 agent cloned into host-vector system)

III-D-3 (infectious virus in tissue culture)

III-E-1 (recombinant DNA made from more than 2/3 of a viral genome)

Last Assessment and biosafety concerns

02/26/26 by Andy Martin. No biosafety related concerns.

Parvin, B2024-44, Organoids and molecular technologies for medical applications (COI: No)

Committee members discussed this submission. There was a motion made by 009 and seconded by 010 to approve the revised version of the protocol. The motion passed unanimously. This approval will be communicated to the IACUC since an amendment to the PI's IACUC protocol was pending the approval of this IBC protocol amendments.

Summary of work being conducted

Their work is investigating tumor suppression in organoid models with the goal of uncovering fibroblast-mediated suppression and reprogramming factors and also methods to identify bacteria. To accomplish this, they are engrafting human tumor lines in NOD-SCID mice and presumably their MMTV-PyMT mice which develop mammary tumors that metastasize to the lung.

This amendment adds their intent to generate human cell lines expressing or lacking reporters and various genes, and adds an additional cell line

Biosafety Level

Work with human cell lines and iPSC clones can continue using BSL-2 practices and BSL-2 containment. Any individuals working with this material must complete and maintain annual bloodborne pathogens training.

Work with bacterial agents and toxins can continue as indicated using BSL-2 practices and under BSL-2 containment.

The use of viral vectors can continue as indicated using BSL-2 practices with additional

PPE requirements (N95 masks, gloves, sleeves, safety glasses, and lab coats) and under BSL-2 containment. Any individuals working with this material must complete and maintain annual bloodborne pathogens training and all care should be given when working with this material, especially given the intent to deliver oncogenes to immortalize primary human cell lines. The substitution or elimination of sharps when working with lentiviruses, especially in this context, is highly recommended.

NIH guidelines

They have previously indicated the following sections, which remain unchanged from this amendment: III-D-1 (risk group 2 agents as host/vectors); III-D-3 (infectious virus in tissue culture); III-E-3 (transgenic rodents); and III-F-1 and Appendix C-II (exempt experiments).

Last Assessment and biosafety concerns

5/20/2025 by Keith Kikawa. Clutter in fume hood and BSC, no HEPA filters in vacuum line for aspiration flasks and deficiencies in labeling of aspiration flasks. Also instances of improper PPE in the lab and improperly labeled laboratory waste.

Designated Member Reviews (DMRs)

None

Closed Protocols

None

Agenda for Administrative Business

Administrative amendments

1. Aucoin, B2025-08, Biomarker Discovery and Development of Rapid Diagnostic Tests for Microbial Pathogens
Update study personnel
2. Lombardi, B2024-45, Gut Brain Axis in Neuroimmune Disease
Update study personnel
3. Ma, B2025-20, Understanding UV inactivation performance and mechanisms in different matrices
Update study personnel

Other Business

BSO update on amendment B2023-50: Neuromodulation of glucose homeostasis and associated behaviors in *Drosophila melanogaster* (vinegar fly), *Ixodes scapularis* (blacklegged tick), and *Ooceraea biro* (clonal raider ants). Update 4/8/2026 –

Andy Martin (BSO) visited the lab to review the proposed placement of incubators/environmental chambers and to discuss arthropod handling, containment, escape prevention.

The lab anesthetizes arthropods using CO₂ prior to opening tubes and performs manipulations in an open box with sticky tape to capture potential escapees on top of a table covered in white lining. Work is limited to 10–20 adult ticks at a time, with counts performed at each manipulation.

The workroom has a sliding door. The addition of sticky floor mats at the entrance and exit was recommended to reduce the risk of arthropod escape and pest intrusion. A door sweep was discussed as well but may have limited effectiveness due to the sliding door. Potential spots for pest harborages were noted, though complete elimination may be difficult given room construction, especially regarding the ceiling height and exposed pipes.

The lab is coordinating with Rockefeller University, the source of the clonal raider ant colony, to arrange training once the USDA permit is granted. No updates on the permit status have been provided to date.

- Update on Nevada State Public Health Laboratory's move-AM

Meeting Close-out

Next meeting: June 10th, 2026

Time adjourned: 3:54 p.m.