

Institutional Biosafety Committee University of Nevada, Reno

Meeting Minutes

June 10th, 2026

General Information

- The IBC Chair called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.
- Meeting minutes approved at the July 2026 IBC meeting
- [Meeting conducted via Zoom](#)
- Total voting members present: 9

Voting Members Present

1. Andy Martin, Biosafety Officer, Committee Contact, 010
2. Benjamin Weigler, Scientist/Veterinarian/Animal Expert, 009
3. Cam Tran, Scientist/Chairperson, 014
4. Claudia Rueckert, Scientist/Vice Chairperson, 003
5. Evan Colletti, Community Member, 004
6. Jung Hwan Kim, Scientist, 012
7. Robin Trimble, Community Member, 008
8. Shailesh Agarwal, Scientist, 015
9. Won-Gyu-Choi, Scientist, plant expert, 002

Voting Members Absent

1. Andrew Nuss, Scientist, 013
2. Paul Brett, Scientist, 001

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 May 13th, 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

Van der Linden, B2026-16, Mechanisms of Sleep and Aging in C. elegans, BSL 1
Renewal of B2023-29

Committee members discussed this submission. There was motion made by 012 and seconded by 010 to approve this protocol renewal. The motion passed unanimously.

Summary of work being conducted

Their aim is to understand basic mechanisms involved in sleep and aging using the free-living nematode, *Caenorhabditis elegans*

Biosafety Level

The culture of transgenic and wild type *C. elegans* and of non-pathogenic *Escherichia coli* and *Comamonas spp.* to act as a food source for *C. elegans* can continue using BSL-1 practices and under BSL-1 containment.

NIH guidelines

They indicated Section III-D-4(a) due to the creation of transgenic whole *C. elegans*.

Last Assessment and biosafety concerns

Last assessment on 10/27/25 by Andy Martin. Biosafety findings include plants in the lab which have been removed as of 2/9/2026.

New Protocol Reviews

George, B2026-18, Sex-Linked Regulation of Peripheral and Tissue-Specific Immunity in Health and Disease (BSL-2)with enhanced precautions (COI: No)

Committee members discussed this submission. There was a motion made by 010 and seconded by 003 to conditionally approve this new protocol until the PI can participate in the occupational health program and be granted clearance. The motion passed unanimously.

Summary of work being conducted

Their aim is to explore the sex differences in mechanisms of immune responses to better understand their influence on susceptibility, pathogenesis, and treatment outcomes across infectious and immune-mediated diseases. HIV is their model virus with the use of primary cells and cell lines derived from humans and mammals as hosts.

Biosafety Level

The use of HIV containing human material and replication competent/incompetent HIV should be conducted using BSL-3 practices and can be performed using BSL-2 containment provided the following additional safety measures are implemented:

The use of primary human material, human cell lines, and lentiviral vectors can proceed using BSL-2 practices and under BSL-2 containment. Any individuals working with this material must complete and maintain annual bloodborne pathogens training.

The use of *E. coli* K12 and mammalian (mouse/hamster) cells including primary cells and cell lines may proceed using BSL-1 practices and under BSL-1 containment.

NIH guidelines

They indicated the following sections:

Section III-D-1: Risk Group 2+ as a host-vector system

Section III-D-2: DNA from RG2+ agent cloned into host-vector system

Section III-D-3: Use of >2/3 of a viral genome in tissue culture

Last Assessment and biosafety concerns

New PI has not had a formal laboratory assessment as their work has not commenced yet. An initial assessment had been conducted by Andy Martin and Keith Kikawa prior to the PI arriving and after the PI had arrived. The space was judged acceptable for BSL-2 and enhanced BSL-2 work.

MOUA Amendments

Burkin, B2024-52, Muscular Dystrophy (COI: 014)

Committee member 014 recused themselves from the discussion and vote due to a conflict of interest. Member 003 took over the duties of the Chair. Committee members discussed this submission. There was a motion made by 015 and seconded by 003 to approve this protocol amendment. The motion passed unanimously.

Summary of work being conducted

Their work is investigating the role of integrins and the extracellular matrix in muscle development and disease as well as developing therapeutics to alter disease progression.

This amendment adds a related research direction involving prostate cancer patient tissues collected from Dr. Eric Kim at Renown.

Biosafety Level

Work with human cell lines and tissues 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 where applicable and under BSL-2 containment. Any individuals working with lentiviruses must complete and maintain annual bloodborne pathogens training and all care should be given when working with this material. 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:

Section III-D-4: experiments with whole animals

Section III-E-3: transgenic rodents

Section III-F-1 and Appendix C-II: exempt experiments.

Last Assessment and biosafety concerns

3/6/2026 by Andy Martin. Sharps protocols were reevaluated during the assessment. No other biosafety related findings were identified

Dagda, B2025-03, Kinase signaling and Protein Aggregation Regulates Mitochondrial Structure/Function and Neuronal Development in Models of Aging, Alzheimer's disease and Parkinson's Disease (COI: No)

Committee members discussed this submission. There was a motion made by 009 and seconded by 004 to approve this protocol amendment. The motion passed unanimously. Summary of work being conducted

Summary of work being conducted

Their work aims to characterize the neuronal signaling pathways and molecular mechanisms mediated by PTEN-induced Kinase 1 (PINK1) and Protein Kinase A (PKA) and to understand how oxidative stress and aging contributes to mitochondrial dysfunction.

This amendment updates their personnel roster

Biosafety Level

Work with human cell lines and human primary fibroblasts 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 rodent cell lines and transgenic rodents may continue using BSL-1 (ABSL-1) practices and under BSL-1 (ABSL1) containment, respectively.

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. Baker, B2025-30, Interstitial cells' responses to inflammation in GI muscles
Update study personnel
2. Barnett, B2025-34, Relaxation Signaling in Human Myometrium
Update study personnel
3. Brett, B2023-10, Use of non-select agent Burkholderia to identify diagnostic/threrapeutic targets
Update study personnel
4. Brett, B2024-11, Development of Subunit Vaccines Against Bacterial Pathogens
Update study personnel
5. Gonzales, B2023-37, Pericyte Control of Junctional Blood Flow
Update study personnel
6. Gonzales, B2023-37, Pericyte Control of Junctional Blood Flow
Update study personnel
7. Gonzales, B2025-10, Cancer Hijacking of the Microcirculation
Update study personnel

Other Business

None

Meeting Close-out

Next meeting: July 8th, 2026

Time adjourned: 3:46 p.m.