

Institutional Biosafety Committee University of Nevada, Reno

Meeting Minutes

July 8th, 2026

General Information

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

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. Paul Brett, Scientist, 001
7. Shailesh Agarwal, Scientist, 015
8. Won-Gyu-Choi, Scientist, plant expert, 002

Voting Members Absent

1. Andrew Nuss, Scientist, 013
2. Jung Hwan Kim, Scientist, 012
3. Robin Trimble, Community Member, 008

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 June 10th, 2026 IBC meeting:

There were no comments or concerns regarding these meeting minutes. A motion was made by 001 and seconded by 002 to approve them. The motion passed unanimously.

Review Prior Business

None

MOUA Reviews

Three-year Protocol Renewals

Agarwal, B2026-22, Isolation of cardiac myocytes for intracellular signaling studies, BSL 2

Renewal of B2023-28

Committee members discussed this submission. There was motion made by 009 and seconded by 010 to approve this protocol renewal as revised. The motion passed unanimously.

Summary of work being conducted

Their aim is to better understand the mechanisms behind autonomic nervous system-mediated cell signaling disruptions that can induce heart failure.

This renewal adds additional personnel to their protocol.

Biosafety Level

Use of Human cell lines and adenovirus can continue using BSL-2 practices and under BSL-2 containment. Any individuals working with this material must complete and maintain annual bloodborne pathogens training.

Mouse work, non-human mammalian cell culture, bacterial work, and work with recombinant AAV, can continue using A/BSL-1 practices and under A/BSL-1 containment.

NIH guidelines

They indicated the following sections which apply:

III-D-1: Risk Group 2 or higher agent as host-vector system
III-D-4: Use of whole animals for A/BSL-2
III-E-1: formation of recombinant DNA containing <2/3 of a eukaryotic viral genome
III-E-3: Transgenic rodents for A/BSL-1
III-F, Appendix. C-II: *E. coli* K-12 as host vector system

Last Assessment and biosafety concerns

Last assessment on 3/18/2026 by Andy Martin. Biosafety related findings include loose sharps around the lab and incomplete training, which have all been corrected as of 6/22/2026.

New Protocol Reviews

None

MOUA Amendments

Barnett, B2025-34, Relaxation Signaling in Human Myometrium

Committee members discussed this submission. There was a motion made by 003 and seconded by 002 to approve this protocol amendment as revised. The motion passed unanimously.

Summary of work being conducted

They aim to better understand the pathophysiology of preterm labor using human and mouse cells/tissue to develop drug therapies.

This amendment adds HEK293T and primary human uterine smooth muscle cells to their list of agents, as well as transient transfection (without virus) of genes of interest into these cells.

Biosafety Level

Use of Human cells and tissue can continue using BSL-2 practices and under BSL-2 containment. Any individuals working with this material must complete and maintain annual bloodborne pathogens training.

Use of non-pathogenic *E. coli* strains and mouse tissue can continue using BSL-1 practices and under BSL-1 containment.

NIH guidelines

Section III-E-1 should apply due to the use of lentiviral backbones on their plasmids to deliver material in tissue culture.

Last Assessment and biosafety concerns

Last assessment on 7/30/2025 by Luis Barthel-Rosa. No biosafety related concerns.

Designated Member Reviews (DMRs)

None

Closed Protocols

None

Agenda for Administrative Business

Administrative amendments

1. Choi, B2024-13, Calcium Signaling and Regulatory mechanisms of systemic Calcium in plants
Update study personnel
2. Harvey, B2024-33, Cardiac and Smooth Muscle Cell Signaling Mechanisms and Ion Channel Regulation
Update study personnel
3. Wen, B2025-37, Recombinant DNA and viral transduction-Assessing integrin activation
Update study personnel

Other Business

None

Meeting Close-out

Next meeting: August 12th, 2026

Time adjourned: 3:55 p.m.