Institutional Biosafety Committee
University of Nevada, Reno

Meeting Minutes

August 12th, 2026

General Information

- The IBC Chair called the meeting to order at 2:59 p.m.
- Meeting minutes approved at the July 2026 IBC meeting
- Meeting conducted via Zoom
- Total voting members present: 6

Voting Members Present

1. Cam Tran, Scientist/Chairperson, 014
2. Evan Colletti, Community Member, 004
3. Andy Martin, Biosafety Officer, Committee Contact, 010
4. Won-Gyu-Choi, Scientist, plant expert, 002
5. Shailesh Agarwal, Scientist, 015
6. Walt Mandeville, Scientist/Veterinarian/Alternate Animal Expert, 006

Voting Members Absent

1. Andrew Nuss, Scientist, 013
2. Benjamin Weigler, Scientist/Veterinarian/Animal Expert, 009
3. Claudia Rueckert, Scientist/Vice Chairperson, 003
4. Jung Hwan Kim, Scientist, 012
5. Paul Brett, Scientist, 001
6. Robin Trimble, Community Member, 008

Others Present

1. Jenn Thornton, non-voting committee contact
2. Keith Kikawa, Lab Safety Group Manager, EH&S
3. Lauren Davie, RI&S Administrator

Agenda for Full Committee Business

Minutes

Review and approval of minutes for the July 8th, 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

Raeeszadeh-Sarmazdeh, B2026-21, Protein Engineering for Developing therapeutics, BSL-2 (COI: No)

Committee members discussed this submission. There was a motion by 002 and seconded by 015 to approve this renewal. The motion passed unanimously.

Summary of work being conducted

They engineer proteins and protein fragments to evaluate binding affinity and potency using biochemical and yeast/cell-based assays.

Biosafety Level

Use of Human cell line 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.

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

NIH guidelines

They indicated Section III-E-1 which is applicable for their research involving human cell culture and delivery of recombinant/synthetic nucleic acids.

Last Assessment and biosafety concerns

Last assessment on 05/05/2026 by Andy Martin. Biosafety-related findings include crowded BSCs and no secondary containment for their aspiration flasks.

New Protocol Reviews

None

MOUA Amendments

Akin, B2025-18, Molecular regulation of sympathetic neuron activity in cardiovascular disease, BSL-2 (COI: No)

Committee members discussed this submission. There was a motion by 015 and seconded by 002 to approve this amendment once the training deficiencies are addressed. The motion passed unanimously.

Summary of work being conducted
Their aim is to use live cell microscopy to better understand protein and neurotransmitters in healthy vs diseased neuronal tissue.

This amendment adds plasmids and cryopreserved human cells and adjusts personnel roster and location spaces.

Biosafety Level
Work involving Human cell lines 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.

Work involving non-human mammalian cell culture, and bacterial work, can continue using BSL-1 practices and under BSL-1 containment.

Work involving animals can proceed using A/BSL-1 practices and under A/BSL-1 containment.

NIH guidelines
Their proposed use of recombinant/synthetic nucleic acid in human cell lines should fall under Section III-E-1 of the NIH Guidelines. Recombinant or synthetic nucleic acid molecules containing no more than two-thirds of the genome of any eukaryotic virus in the absence of a helper virus or more than 2/3 of a viral genome.

They indicated section III-F and cited Appendix C-I and C-II.

Last Assessment and biosafety concerns
Last assessment on 3/10/2026 by Andy Martin. Biosafety-related findings include an unavailable eyewash, which Facilities has been contacted about.

Aucoin/Thorkildson, B2024-41, Biosafety Level 3 studies in the Aucoin laboratory, BSL-3, (COI: No)

Committee members discussed this submission. There was a motion made by 004 and seconded by 010 to approve this amendment. The motion passed unanimously.

Summary of work being conducted

They aim to identify therapeutic and diagnostic targets for Tier 1 bacterial agents by taking body fluid samples from animal models and human patients for in vitro assay development or immunization of mice to generate antibodies. They are also testing cross-reactivity and inclusivity of their immunoassays to other BSL-3 agents.

This amendment indicates the intent to resume BSL-3 work, and to include Eastern Equine Encephalitis Virus and Madariaga Virus.

Biosafety Level

Their work with all indicated agents should proceed using BSL-3 practices and under BSL-3 containment.

All personnel should take Bloodborne Pathogens training prior to work with human blood and body fluids, and must be enrolled in the Federal Select Agent Program if they will have access to registered spaces for storing, manipulating, inactivating or destroying Select Agents.

NIH guidelines

They indicate Section III-D-1 which is suitable for host-vector work involving risk group 2 or above agents.

Last Assessment and biosafety concerns

Last assessment on 3/03/2026 by Andy Martin. No biosafety related findings were identified

Wen, B2025-37, Recombiant DNA and viral transduction-Assessing intergrin activation BSL-2 (COI: No)

Committee members discussed this submission. There was a motion made by 015 and seconded by 002 to approve the amendment. The motion passed unanimously.

Summary of work being conducted

They aim to study leukocyte integrin activation and adhesion through delivery of specific genes and reporters via lentiviruses to human cell lines or isolated primary mouse bone marrow cells.

Biosafety Level

Use of human material and retroviral/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.

NIH guidelines
They indicated Sections III-D-1, Section III-E-1, and section III-E-3 which all apply.

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.

Designated Member Reviews (DMRs)

None

Closed Protocols

None

Agenda for Administrative Business

1. Harvey, B2024-33, Cardiac and Smooth Muscle Cell Signaling Mechanism and Ion Channel Regulation
   Amendment: Update to study personnel
2. Pagilla, B2023-47, Measure microorganisms in water
   Amendment: Update authorized user
3. Parvin, B2024-44, Organoids and molecular technologies for medical applications
   Amendment: Update to study personnel

Other Business

None

Meeting Close-out

Next meeting: September 9, 2026

Time adjourned: 3:56 p.m.