

Institutional Biosafety Committee
University of Arizona
June 18, 2026
Zoom
10:00AM – 11:00AM
Meeting Minutes

Members' Present: Dr. David Besselsen, Ceasar Ramirez, Dr. Mrinalini Kala, Hien Trinh, Patricia Gundy, Dr. Anita Koshy, Marcy Milbrandt, Jennifer Uhrlaub, Dr. Judith Brown, Lauren Melcher, Dr. Jonathan Sexton

Non-members' Present: None.

Members Absent: Dr. Michael Riehle, Dr. Kathryn O'Connell, Dr. Lynn Stone

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM

1. Review of the previous meeting minutes: June 17, 2026
2. Biosafety Level 1 (Non-Exempt-rNucleic Acid) Application
 - a. Sara Burke, PhD, Neuroscience, Approval No. 11121
Protocol Title: Circuit and Metabolic Mechanisms of Neural Dynamics and Cognitive Aging
Agents: Adeno-associated virus, Tissue (rats)
Building (B/0077.00): Gould Simpson R/617

This protocol falls under NIH Guidelines III-D-4-a.

The Committee approved your protocol but wanted clarification if the AAVs and /or AAV-infected rats will be transported between Central Animal Facility and Gould Simpson?

If transportation is required, please follow these guidelines: Any biohazardous material transported from one lab to another on campus must be transported in a hard-sided, leak-proof container containing absorbent material that is marked properly to show that it contains biohazardous material.

3. Biosafety Level 2 (Non-Exempt-rNucleic Acid) Application
 - a. Abhinav Sur, PhD, Molecular and Cellular Biology, Approval No. 12513
Protocol Title: Understanding the function and communication networks of the newly discovered intestinal best4+ cells
Agents: Cholera toxin, Heat-labile enterotoxin, Cell lines (human), human organoid samples, Vibrio Cholerae, Salmonella typhimurium
Building (B/240.00): Thomas Keating R/224W, 224C
Building (B/101.00): Central Animal Facility R/232
Building (B/222.00): Leon Levy Cancer Center R/0955, 0960, 0979

This protocol falls under NIH Guidelines III-D-4-b

The Committee conditionally approved your protocol and wanted further clarification on the following:

- Provide more information regarding the use of vibrio and salmonella.
 - Will they be used in the zebrafish experiments or only in vitro?
- In section G6, you mentioned “Fish exposed to biohazardous agents will never be introduced into the fish facility and will be euthanized following ASP (2025-1454) guidelines.”
 - What (if any) biohazardous agents will be exposed to the zebrafish?

4. Biosafety Level 3 (Non-rNucleic Acid) Applications

a. Yin Chen, PhD, Pharmacology and Toxicology, Approval No. 13014

Protocol Title: Antiviral Drug Testing for MERS Infection

Agents: MERS isolates/cultures (BEI resources and University of Iowa)

Building (B/101): Centralized Animal Facility R/207, 209, 211, 217

The Committee tabled your protocol for the following reasons:

- BSL3 Edge training has not been completed,
- The primary BSL3 worker(s) who will work with MERS have not completed training and have not been signed off to work in the BSL3 facility by BSL3 coordinator(s),
- Final CDC inspection results from the July 28, 2026, inspection are pending.

The Committee is also requesting the following items be clarified with application:

- Please incorporate into the IBC application the responses to the prior IBC request for clarifications that you conveyed in your email correspondence dated July 12, 2026. (Ceasar will work with this once these responses are submitted too)
- Under “Research Objectives,” you stated “...and sample processing prior to validated inactivation, will be conducted in accordance with approved BSL-3/ABSL-3 protocols, institutional biosafety requirements, and applicable federal regulations.”
 - It is the responsibility of the principal investigator to develop and validate the virus inactivation procedures to be used. Please include the viral inactivation procedures that will be used for each sample type in the IBC application, and plan to submit test results to IBC that validate the methods that are used once approval is granted.
- Under section G5, you stated “Biohazardous sharps waste will be autoclaved in approved metal containers before disposal into designated sharps containers.”
 - Please provide more detail about the metal containers and the sharps autoclaving procedure, in the context of ensuring sterilization while preventing sharps exposure.
- Under section G3, you stated the use of HEPA-filtered cages will be used for animal studies.
 - The animal cages are not HEPA-filtered; the animal racks are HEPA-filtered.

5. Advisements

a. Hongmin Li, PhD, Pharmacology and Toxicology, Approval No. 12418 (BSL2)

Protocol Title: Therapeutics for Flavivirus Management- Antiviral, antifungal, and antibiotic development against various BSL2 pathogens including viruses, fungi, and bacteria

Agents: Thottapalayam virus

- The Committee approved the addition of this agent to the BSL2 approval.

- b. Hongmin Li, PhD, Pharmacology and Toxicology, Approval No. 13016 (BSL3)
Protocol Title: Antifungal, antiviral and antibiotic development against various BSL3 pathogens, including viruses, fungi, and bacteria
Agents: Hantaan virus 76-118 strain
- The Committee tabled the addition of this agent for the following reasons:
 - Clarifications from Dr. Li if this agent will be involved in animal work
 - Ceasar will contact USDA and CDC to determine if shipping permits are required
 - Ceasar will contact CDC for guidance as to what volumes and titers are acceptable at BSL3.

6. Compliance Review Issues
- a. The audit report for June- July 2026.
 - b. Incident(s): None.
7. Old Business
- a. None.
8. New Business
- a. None.

The next meeting is scheduled for August 19, 2026, via Zoom.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:37AM.

Prepared by: Ceasar Ramirez

Reviewed by:



David Besselsen, DVM, PhD
Vice Chair, Institutional Biosafety Committee