The UAB Institutional Biosafety Committee Meeting Minutes
Research Involving Recombinant and Synthetic Nucleic Acid Molecules
August 11, 2025 12:30 pm

Members	Present (Y/N)	Vote (Y/N)
1. Suzanne M. Michalek, PhD, Chair, Lab Rep [SMM]	N	N
2. Theresa Strong, PhD, Co-Chair, Lab Rep [TVS]	Y	Y
3. Donna Williamson, MS, RSS [DSW]	Y	Y
4. Amanda F. Smith, BS, RSS, Voting Contact [AFS]	Y	N
6. Cameron Crosby, MD, OM [JCC]	N	N
7. Julie Allen, DNP, OM [JSA]	Y	Y
8. Lillie Flood, RN-BSN, JCDH [LF]	Y	Y
9. Qiang (John) Ding, PhD, VA [QJD]	N	N
10. Andrea Osborne, DVM, ARP [AJO]	Y	Y
11. Justin Roth, PhD, BSO-EHS [JCR]	Y	Y
12. Brian Lagory, BS, BSO-EHS [BEL]	Y	N
13. Vineel Reddy, PhD, EHS [VPR]	Y	Y
14. Julie Gray, BS, EHS [JDG]	Y	N
15. Tyler Uzzell, MA, IRB [TWU]	Y	Y
16. Amanda J. Watts, MS, IACUC [AJW]	Y	Y
17. Chad Dunaway, IACUC [CD]	N	N
18. Tyler T. Wright, PhD, Lab Rep [TTW]	Y	Y
19. Masakazu Kamata, PhD, Lab Rep [MK]	Y	Y
20. Joel N. Glasgow, PhD, Lab Rep [JNG]	Y	Y
21. Kevin Harrod, PhD, Lab Rep [KH]	N	N
22. Christine M. Wright, PhD, Lab Rep [CMW]	Y	Y
23. Larisa Pereboeva, PhD, Lab Rep [LP]	Y	Y
24. Megan Kiedrowski, PhD, Lab Rep [MRK]	N	N
25. Zdenek Hel, PhD, Lab Rep [ZH]	Y	Y
26. Adam McClintock, MBA, HSR [AM]	N	N
27. Wesley Willeford, MD, JCDH [WW]	Y	Y
28. Rebecca Johnstone, RSS, Recording Secretary [RMJ]	Y	N
Total	**20**	**16**

Guests		
1. Laura Caltrider, EHS [LPC]	Y	N
2. Earle Durboraw, ARP [EBD]	Y	N
3. Joseph Palmer, SEBLAB [JP]	Y	N
4. Douglas Fox, SEBLAB [DMF]	Y	N
5. Luselyz Ortiz Torres, EHS [LOT]	Y	N
6. Stephen Geisler, JD [SG]	N	N
7. Caitlyn Sebastian - Guest	Y	N

The August 11, 2025, Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) meeting for Research Involving Recombinant of Synthetic Nucleic Acid Molecules was called to order at 12:3 pm via the web-based video conferencing tool, Zoom, by TVS. A quorum was present.

Welcome and Introduction of Guests

TVS welcomed all in attendance.

Approval of the July 14, 2025, Minutes

The July 14, 2025 meeting minutes were distributed in the Committee member packet via email and/or secure cloud storage prior to the meeting. A motion was made to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded. There were two abstentions. The minutes were approved as amended.

Standing Reports

- In the News/Regulatory Visits – The CDC inspected and found no concerns and no findings.
- Faculty Senate – There were no updates.
- Veterans Administration – There were no updates.
- Employee Health – There were no updates.
- JCDH – There were no updates.
- IRAP and EHSA – EHSA BioForm is continuing the edits to streamline content and reduce lag.
- Research Safety Updates:
    - PI Arrivals/Departures/UAB Lab Relocations – Arrivals: M. Simms, R. Van Sciver Departures: Lyse Norian, Om Srivastava, Ellen Mwenesongole, Mary Ellen Zvanut
    - Safety Visits – The most frequent findings are the chemical inventories, late BSC certificattions, door signage, chemical segregation errors.

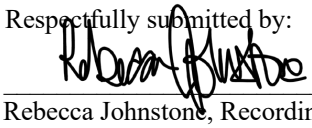
New/Old Business - Research Safety and Security (RSS) will be posting the rsNA minutes on the UAB IBC website. New BSO has been hired in EHS, Vineel Reddy, Ph.D. has been announced as the new ABSO in EHS. Viral vector policies being revisited to streamline ABSL2 room assignments and new containment requirements. The committee discussed listing basic PPE as well as special PPE on AUSI forms. ARP to monitor and correct positive/negative pressure rooms based off work being done in rooms. Discussion of handling viral vectors in animal facilities, particularly the confusion around labeling rooms with AAV (a risk group one vector) as ABSL-2. JCR explains that while ABSL-2 signage helps identify rooms for infectious studies, it may be excessive for AAV unless it expresses oncogenes or is a hybrid vector.

Project Review - The review and discussion of the following projects included: agent characteristics; types of manipulations planned; verification that the PI and laboratory staff performing the research have been appropriately trained in the safe conduct of the research; and containment control measures to be implemented (biosafety level and any special provisions). Please refer to the attached summary of the Committee review outcome for each project.

Transgenic Projects - No transgenic projects were discussed at this meeting.

Adjournment - The Chair asked if there were any further questions or comments. Being none, the meeting was adjourned at 1:33 pm. The next meeting date is September 08, 2025.

Respectfully submitted by:



Rebecca Johnstone, Recording Secretary
Research Safety Committees

Project registration documents submitted by the PI indicate UAB Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) review and approval is required for the following research activities involving recombinant or synthetic nucleic acid (r/sNA) molecules and/or biohazardous agents. If the nature of the work changes or the listed conditions cannot be met, it is the PI's responsibility to consult with the IBC for additional guidance. It is the PI's responsibility to ensure all individuals listed on the project are enrolled in and compliant with the requirements of UAB Employee Health prior to and for the duration of the work:

Approve	Disapprove	Abstain or Recuse	RSC #	Evaluation
16	--	--	25-136	***Alain Bouchard; A Double-blind, Randomized, Placebo-controlled, Multicenter Study Assessing Olpasiran Use to Prevent First Major Cardiovascular Events in Participants with Elevated Lipoprotein(a)*** Reason for IBC review: • Approval contingent on completion of MOU and site inspection. • Administration of siRNA to human subjects The University of Alabama at Birmingham's IBC reviewed the proposed work listed above and has approved the work under the following containment conditions. • BSL1 practices and procedures will be used for preparation and administration of the IP. • This IBC review addresses the use of r/sNA and/or microbial agents only. If chemical agents, radioactive material, or animal or human subjects are proposed in this research, other reviews and approvals may be required.
16	--	--	25-137	***Alain Bouchard; A randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, multicenter, 12 months treatment duration, dose finding study to evaluate efficacy, safety and pharmacodynamics of QCZ484 in mild to moderate hypertensive patients*** Reason for IBC review: • Approval contingent on completion of MOU and site inspection. • Administration of siRNA to human subjects The University of Alabama at Birmingham's IBC reviewed the proposed work listed above and has approved the work under the following containment conditions. • BSL1 practices and procedures will be used for preparation and administration of the IP. • This IBC review addresses the use of r/sNA and/or microbial agents only. If chemical agents, radioactive material, or animal or human subjects are proposed in this research, other reviews and approvals may be required.

16	--	--	21-118	***Sixto Leal; Modeling Fungal Pathogenesis During Respiratory and Systemic Infection - BSL2*** Reason for IBC review: • In vitro and in vivo work with multiple wild-type, mutant, and attenuated Risk Group 2 fungi, molds, viruses, and/or yeasts (described in attachment). The University of Alabama at Birmingham's IBC reviewed the proposed work listed above and has approved the work under the following containment conditions. • A/BSL2 practices and procedures, including the use of an annually certified BSC, will be used for work with recombinant fungal agents. • The Animal Resources Program shall be notified, via the posting of an AUSI, of the presence of RG2 agent infected animals. • An agent-specific safety and data plan will be made available and reviewed by all personnel working with RG2 fungal agents. • This IBC review addresses the use of r/sNA and/or microbial agents only. If chemical agents, radioactive material, or animal or human subjects are proposed in this research, other reviews and approvals may be required.
16	--	--	25-145	***Praveen Dubey; Exploring the Role of Mitochondria in the Progression of Cardiovascular Disease*** Reason for IBC review: • Use of lentivirus for in vitro modification of cells. • Administration of modified cells and adeno-associated viral vectors to animals. The University of Alabama at Birmingham's IBC reviewed the proposed work listed above and has approved the work under the following containment conditions. • BSL2 practices and procedures, including the use of an annually certified biosafety cabinet, will be used for all in vitro work with human cells and lentivirus. • ABSL2 practices and procedures, including the posting of an AUSI, will be used for 14 days post-administration of AAV vectors, then ABSL1 will be used. • The Animal Resources Program will be notified, via the posting of an AUSI, of AAV vectors in animals. • This IBC review addresses the use of r/sNA and/or microbial agents only. If chemical agents, radioactive material, or animal or human subjects are proposed in this research, other reviews and approvals may be required.
16-	--	--	23-147	***Angela Wahl; HIV Persistence and Eradication*** Reason for IBC review: • Administration of lipid nanoparticles containing Cas9 mRNA and sgRNAs to animals. The University of Alabama at Birmingham's IBC reviewed the proposed work listed above and has approved the work under the following containment conditions. • ABSL1 practices and procedures may be used for injection/infusion of mRNA and sgRNAs.

				This IBC review addresses the use of r/sNA and/or microbial agents only. If chemical agents, radioactive material, or animal or human subjects are proposed in this research, other reviews and approvals may be required.
16	--	--	24-138	***Abigail Hernandez; Influence of Gut on Metabolism and Cognition in Alzheimer's Disease*** Reason for IBC review: • Administration of Adeno-associated viral vectors to animals. The University of Alabama at Birmingham's IBC reviewed the proposed work listed above and has approved the work under the following containment conditions. • BSL2 practices and procedures, including the use of an annually certified biosafety cabinet, will be used for all in vitro work with human cells and lentivirus. • ABSL2 practices and procedures, including the posting of an AUSI, will be used for 14 days post-administration of AAV vectors, then ABSL1 will be used. • The Animal Resources Program will be notified, via the posting of an AUSI, of AAV vectors in animals.