The UAB Institutional Biosafety Committee Meeting Minutes
Research Involving Recombinant and Synthetic Nucleic Acid Molecules
September 08, 2025 12:30 pm

Members	Present (Y/N)	Vote (Y/N)
1. Suzanne M. Michalek, PhD, Chair, Lab Rep [SMM]	Y	Y
2. Theresa Strong, PhD, Co-Chair, Lab Rep [TVS]	N	N
3. Donna Williamson, MS, RSS [DSW]	N	N
4. Amanda F. Smith, BS, RSS, Voting Contact [AFS]	Y	Y
6. Cameron Crosby, MD, OM [JCC]	Y	Y
7. Julie Allen, DNP, OM [JSA]	Y	N
8. Lillie Flood, RN-BSN, JCDH [LF]	Y	Y
9. Qiang (John) Ding, PhD, VA [QJD]	Y	Y
10. Andrea Osborne, DVM, ARP [AJO]	Y	Y
11. Justin Roth, PhD, BSO-EHS [JCR]	Y	N
12. Brian Lagory, BS, BSO-EHS [BEL]	Y	Y
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]	Y	N
25. Zdenek Hel, PhD, Lab Rep [ZH]	N	N
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	**21**	**16**

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

The September 08, 2025, Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) meeting for Research Involving Recombinant of Synthetic Nucleic Acid Molecules was called to order at 12:30 pm via the web-based video conferencing tool, Zoom, by SMM. A quorum was present.

Welcome and Introduction of Guests

SMM welcomed all in attendance.

Approval of the August 11, 2025, Minutes

The August 11, 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 – There were no updates.
- Faculty Senate – There were no updates.
- Veterans Administration – There were no updates.
- Employee Health – 10% increase in employee Covid cases. Flu vaccine will be offered 01Oct2025 and 06Oct2025 in Community Health Building 19.
- JCDH – There were no updates.
- IRAP and EHSA – There were no updates.
- Research Safety Updates:
    - PI Arrivals/Departures/UAB Lab Relocations – Arrivals: Yu Shin Kim, PhD.
    - Safety Visits – The committee discussed lab safety issues, focusing on chemical segregation, secondary containment, storage, housekeeping, and signage.

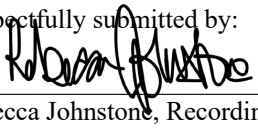
New/Old Business - Research Safety and Security (RSS) will be posting the rsNA minutes on the UAB IBC website. ARP to monitor and correct positive/negative pressure rooms based off work being done in rooms. Working with stakeholders on clarifying the viral vector policy, especially regarding AAV classification and requirements. Develop a proposal for a recombinant symbol system to distinguish between ABSL-2 and recombinant materials that require autoclaving but not full ABSL-2 containment. Follow up with Dr. Tang regarding the stuffer DNA sequences used in the gutless adenovirus vectors to confirm they don't pose any safety risks.

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 1:25 pm. The next meeting date is October 13, 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 work:

Approve	Disapprove	Abstain or Recuse	RSC #	Evaluation
16	--	--	25-152	**Pankaj Arora:** ***A Phase 1/2, Open-Label, Multicenter, Dose Finding and Dose Expansion Study to Investigate the Safety, Tolerability, and Efficacy of ALXN2350 Gene Therapy in Adult Participants with BAG3 Mutation Associated Dilated Cardiomyopathy*** Reason for IBC: • Administration of Adeno-associated viral vectors encoding BAG3 transgene to one or more human participants. The University of Alabama at Birmingham's IBC reviewed the proposed work listed above and has approved the work under the following containment conditions. • Universal precautions will be used for administration of the investigational product (IP). • A certified biological safety cabinet will be used for preparation of study drug, per sponsor instruction. • Any unused IP and any potentially contaminated materials will be disposed as medical waste or per sponsor instruction.
16	--	--	20-062	**Nicholas Lennemann:** ***Regulation of Positive-Stranded RNA Virus Infection by Host Factors of the Endomembrane System*** Reason for IBC: • In vitro studies with wild-type and modified Risk Group 2 organisms, expressing and/or targeting fluorescent reporter proteins, cell stress reporters, bacterial, human, viral, and murine genes. • In vitro use of lentiviral vectors encoding virus reporters, host factors, and CRISPR gRNA to modify human cell lines for in vitro experiments 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, shall be used for all in vitro work with RG2 organisms, human cell lines, and lentivirus. • Agent-specific data & safety plans, including symptom monitoring and/or exposure response, shall be made available and reviewed by all working with RG2 organisms. • The UAB HIV/Lentivirus Exposure Response Plan will be made available and reviewed by all working with HIV, lentiviral vectors, or retroviral vectors. • *Usutu Virus* • *Yellow Fever Virus/VFV – 17D vaccine strain* • *Dengue virus (Type 2)* • *Zika Virus – 2015 Paraiba* • *Coxsackie Virus B3 strain RD* • *Enterovirus 71* • *Astrovirus*

				• *Human Coronavirus (OC43)* • *Astrovirus – VA1*
16	--	--	20-262	**Jeremy Day; *Reelin Signaling and Function in Cocaine Response*** Reason for IBC reveiw • Construction of recombinant lentiviral vectors targeting Reelin or related genes • Administration of recombinant lentiviral and adeno-associated viral vectors targeting Reelin or related genes 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, shall be used for all in vitro work with lentivirus and human cell lines. • ABSL2 practices and procedures shall be used for 14 days post-administration of lentiviral and adeno-associated viral vectors, then ABSL1 should suffice. • The Animal Resources Program shall be notified, via the posting of an AUSI, of the presence of lentiviral and adeno-associated viral vectors in animals. • The UAB Lentivirus Vector Exposure Response Plan shall be made available and reviewed by all working with lentivirus.
16	--	--	21-036	**Jeremy Day; *Role of Gadd45b in Cocaine-driven Epigenetic and Behavioral Dynamics*** Reason for IBC: • Construction of recombinant lentiviral vectors targeting Gadd45b. • Administration of recombinant lentiviral and adeno-associated viral vectors encoding genes targeting Gadd45 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, shall be used for all in vitro work with lentivirus and human cell lines. • ABSL2 practices and procedures shall be used for 14 days post-administration of lentiviral and adeno-associated viral vectors, then ABSL1 should suffice. • The Animal Resources Program shall be notified, via the posting of an AUSI, of the presence of lentiviral and adeno-associated viral vectors in animals. • The UAB Lentivirus Vector Exposure Response Plan shall be made available and reviewed by all working with lentivirus.
16	--	--	25-151	**Lin Jin; *Establishment Of Mouse Models For Skin Fibrosis And Inflammatory Diseases*** Reason for IBC: • Administration of adeno-associated viral vectors encoding sgRNA targeting genes related to fibrosis and inflammation. The University of Alabama at Birmingham's IBC reviewed the proposed work listed above and has approved the work under the following containment conditions. • 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.
16	--	--	25-155	**Carlos Orihuela:** ***Molecular Mechanisms Underlying Organ Penetration in Disseminated Pneumococcal Infection*** Reason for IBC: • In vivo and in vitro studies with wild-type and isogenic mutants of Streptococcus pneumoniae (S. pneumoniae), a Risk Group 2 organism. 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 will be used for all work with S. pneumoniae and human cell culture. • ABSL2 practices and procedures will be used for all handling or manipulations of animals administered S. pneumoniae. • An annually certified biosafety cabinet will be used when procedures with a potential for creating infectious aerosols or splashes are conducted. • The Animal Resources Program will be notified, via the posting of an AUSI, of S. pneumoniae in animals. • An agent-specific safety and data plan will be made available and reviewed by all personnel working with S. pneumoniae.
16	--	--	25-157	**Satoru Osuka:** ***Targeted Delivery and Advanced Imaging Strategies for Improved Brain Tumor Therapy*** Reasons for IBC: • Use of lentiviral vectors encoding genes related to glioblastomas to create rsNA modified cell lines. • Administration of rsNA modified cell lines 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 work with lentivirus and human cell lines. • ABSL1 practices and procedures may be used for the administration of rsNA modified cells to animals. • The UAB HIV/Lentivirus Exposure Response Plan will be made available and reviewed by all working with HIV, lentiviral vectors, or retroviral vectors.
16	--	--	25-146	**Shah Hussain;** ***Structural And Molecular determinants Of Airway Loss*** Reason for IBC: • Experiments involving the use of transgenic ferrets. 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 handling of ferrets, • An annually certified BSC should be used for administration of ASO via nebulization.
16	--	--	21-037	**Anita Hjelmeland;** ***Optimizing Tumor Treating Fields Therapy in Glioblastoma*** Reason for IBC:

				• Use of lentiviral vectors encoding reporter constructs or shRNA against kinases or modification of human and animal cells • Administration of r/sNA modified cells 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 lentivirus. • ABSL1 practices and procedures may be used for the administration of r/sNA modified cells to animals. • The UAB HIV/Lentivirus Exposure Response Plan will be made available and reviewed by all working with HIV, lentiviral vectors, or retroviral vectors.