

**The UAB Institutional Biosafety Committee Meeting Minutes
Research Involving Recombinant and Synthetic Nucleic Acid Molecules
June 11, 2026, 9:00 am**

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

Guests Present

Laura Caltrider, MS, EHS [LPC]	Riley Cooper, MS, EHS [RC]
I'Aisha Hampton, EHS [IH]	Douglas Fox, PhD, SEBLAB [DMF]
Joseph Palmer, PhD, SEBLAB [JP]	Earle Durboraw, MS, ARP [ED]
Susan Pelmer, RSS [SP]	Ian Doty, EHS [ED]
Dale Payton, ARP [DP]	Caitlyn Sebastian, GBS [CS]
Phillip Richter, DVM, PhD, ARP [PJR]	

The June 11, 2026, Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) meeting for research involving recombinant of synthetic nucleic acid molecules was called to order at 9:05 a.m. via web-based video conferencing tool by the Chair. A quorum was present.

Welcome and Introduction of Guests

The Chair welcomed all in attendance.

Approval of May 14, 2026, Minutes

The May 14, 2026, meeting minutes were distributed in the Committee member's packets 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 (2) abstentions. The minutes were approved.

Standing Reports

- In the News/Regulatory Visits – There was no update.
- Faculty Senate – Dr. Ahmad will remain on the Faculty Senate for the next term.
- Veterans Administration – There was no update.
- Employee Health – The committee was updated on annual TB clearance, and employees were instructed to call the Employee Health office to schedule an appointment.
- ARP/Facilities Operations Report – The report on facility upgrades included RSB bulk autoclaves, cage wash operations, and ongoing repairs across different buildings. The committee discussed ARP safety program updates; JCR presented a new form to supplement safety protocols and address gaps in current procedures.
- JCDH – There was no update.
- EHSA – It was reported that development of the bioform and certain reporting functions were ongoing.
- Research Safety Updates
 - PI Arrivals/Departures/UAB Lab Relocations – Departing - Hildreth, Kiedrowski. Retiring – Tollefsbol. Relocations – Payne. Arriving – Liu.
 - Safety Visits – The top five safety issues reported for the past month were: chemical inventory reconciliation, chemical secondary containment, biosafety cabinet certifications, chemical SOPs and spill kit maintenance.
- Ongoing Business
 - NIH Noncompliance Reports – It was reported that the NIH had responded to UAB regarding the two noncompliance reports that were submitted in March and April and that no further actions were required.
- New Business
 - NIH requests re: Executive Order 142902 - It was reported that several researchers had received requests to justify that their research did not fall under dangerous gain of function activities. A communication would be sent to researchers who might be conducting genetic modifications of infectious agents.
- Project Review - The review and discussion of 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.

- Announcements/Discussions – Next meeting date: Thursday, July 9, 2026, 9:00 am

Adjournment

The Chair asked if there were any further questions or comments. Being none, the meeting was adjourned at 10:28 am.

Respectfully submitted by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan Pelmer", written over a horizontal line.

Susan Pelmer
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	Not Approve	Abstain or Recuse	RSC #	Evaluation
11	0	0	21-118	(III.D.1.a) Leal, Sixto: Modeling Fungal Pathogenesis During Respiratory and Systemic Infection - BSL2 Reason for IBC: • Introduction of prtA and red-shifted luciferase into <i>Aspergillus fumigatus</i>. • Administration of rsNA <i>Aspergillus fumigatus</i> to animals. Containment Requirements: • BSL2 practices and procedures, including the use of an annually certified biosafety cabinet, will be used for all in vitro work with <i>A. fumigatus</i>. • ABSL2 practices and procedures, including the use of an annually certified biosafety cabinet, shall be used for all handling or manipulations of animals administered <i>A. fumigatus</i>. • The Animal Resources Program will be notified, via the posting of an AUSI, of <i>A. fumigatus</i> in animals.
11	0	0	21-079	(III.D.1.b) Leal, Sixto: Modeling Fungal Pathogenesis During Respiratory and Systemic Infection – SEBLAB Reason for IBC: • Introduction of prtA and red-shifted luciferase into <i>Histoplasma capsulatum</i>. • Administration of rsNA <i>H. capsulatum</i> to animals. Containment Requirements: • BSL3/ ABSL3 practices and procedures will be used for all work involving RG3 agents.
11	0	0	26-064	(III.D.2; III.D.4; III.E.1) Zhou, Yang: The Role of a Mitotic Deacetylase-associated Gene in Heart Function Reason for IBC: • Generation of 2nd and 3rd generation lentiviral vectors for the transduction of human and murine cells. • Use of E1/E3 deleted Adenoviral vectors encoding Cre and Cre-GFP to modify human and murine cells. • Administration modified RNA to animals Containment Requirements: • BSL2 practices and procedures, including the use of an annually certified biosafety cabinet, will be used for all in vitro work with lentiviral and Adenoviral vectors, and human cells. • ABSL1 practices and procedures may be used for the administration of genetically modified material 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.

11	0	0	26-075	(III.D.3; III.D.4) Zhang, Hanyu: Improve Electrical Integration of hiPSC-Derived Cardiac Tissue with Host Heart Reason for IBC: • In vitro use of rsNA lentivirus. • Administration of rsNA Adeno-associated viral vectors and rsNA modified cells to animals. Containment Requirements: • BSL2 practices and procedures, along with the use of an annually certified biosafety cabinet, must be used for any work with human cells and/or lentivirus. • ABSL2 practices and procedures, along with an N-95 or Equivalent Fitted Respirator, face shield, and surface decontamination, must be used for 4 days after the last AAV. • The Animal Resources Program will be notified, via the posting of an AUSI, of AAV vectors in animals. • ABSL1 practices and procedures may be used for administration of rsNA hiPSC to animals.
11	0	0	26-013	(III.D.4.a) Donahue, James: Improving Pathologic Response Rates in Esophageal Adenocarcinoma Patients Through Utilization of MicroRNAs as Biomarkers and Therapeutic Targets Reason for IBC: • Administration of mi-RNA to animals Containment Requirements: • ABSL1 practices and procedures may be used for the administration of mi-RNA to animals.
11	0	0	26-076	(III.D.4.a) Dutta, Anindya: Function and regulation of noncoding RNAs Reason for IBC: • Administration of mi-RNA to animals. Containment Requirements: • ABSL1 practices and procedures may be used for the administration of mi-RNA to animals.
11	0	0	26-077	(III.D.4.a) Kim, Yu-Shin: Molecular mechanisms of glial development and brain cancer formation Reason for IBC: • Administration of Adeno-associated viral (AAV) vectors to animals. Containment Requirements: • 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.
11	0	0	26-078	(III.D.4) Leavenworth, Jianmei: Chronic Stress-Regulated Tumor-Neuroimmune Network in Tumor Progression and Metastasis Reason for IBC: • Administration of Adeno-associated viral (AAV) vectors and rsNA modified cells animals. Containment Requirements: • BSL2 practices and procedures, including the use of an annually certified biosafety cabinet, will be used for all in vitro work with AAV and human cells. • 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.

11	0	0	26-072	(III.D.4.a) Lucas, Elizabeth: Neural Mechanisms of Menopause Reason for IBC: • Administration of Adeno-associated viral (AAV) vectors to animals. Containment Requirements: • 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.
11	0	0	24-197	(III.D.4.b) Leal, Sixto: UAB SEBLAB ABSL-3 Research Preclinical Animal Imaging Reason for IBC: • Experiments with recombinant and wild type recombinant (dsRed) <i>Aspergillus fumigatus</i>, and clinical isolates of Dematiaceous molds, including administration to animals. Containment Requirements: • A/BSL3 practices and procedures will be used for all work involving RG3 agents. • Infected animals must be placed into gasketed/HEPA filtered containment boxes to be brought to imaging equipment.