UAB The University of Alabama at Birmingham

The UAB Institutional Biosafety Committee Meeting Minutes
Research Involving Recombinant and Synthetic Nucleic Acid Molecules
September 10, 2026, 9:00 am

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

Guests Present

Joseph Palmer, PhD, SEBLAB [JP]
Susan Pelmer, RSS [SP]
Laura Caltrider, MS, EHS [LC]
Phillip Richter, DVM, PhD, ARP [PJR]
Steven Geisler, JD, University Counsel [SG]
Riley Cooper, MS, EHS [RC]
Douglas Fox, PhD, SEBLAB [DMF]
Earle Durboraw, MA, ARP [ED]
Ian Doty, EHS [ID]
Caitlyn Sebastian [CS]

The September 10, 2026, Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) meeting for research involving recombinant of synthetic nucleic acid molecules was called to order at 9:01 a.m. via web-based video conferencing tool by the Chair. A quorum was present.

Welcome and Introduction of Guests

The Chair welcomed the executive director of Research Safety and Security to present new regulatory requirements and institutional responsibilities regarding the NIH Dangerous Gain of Function executive order.

Approval of August 13, 2026, Minutes

The August 13, 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.

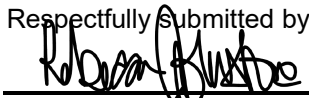
Standing Reports

- In the News/Regulatory Visits – There was no update.
- Faculty Senate – Changes to NIH biosafety guidelines were discussed.
- Veterans Administration – There was no update.
- Employee Health – The importance of keeping laboratory staff current with Occupational Medicine screenings and clearance was discussed.
- ARP/Facilities Operations Report – There was no update.
- 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 **–** The senior safety officer gave a report of the incoming and departing researchers, as well as campus relocations.
    - 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
- New Business
- 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, October 08, 2026, 9:00 am

Adjournment

The Chair asked if there were any further questions or comments. Being none, the meeting was adjourned at 10:16 am.

Respectfully submitted by:



09/25/2026

Rebecca Johnstone Date
Recording Secretary

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
13	--	--	26-150	**(III.D.1.b) Orihuela, Carlos; Metabolic and Physiological Constraints on Capsule Switching in *Streptococcus pneumoniae*** **Reason for IBC:** • Experiments in which DNA from a Risk Group 2 (RG2) agent (S. pneumoniae) is cloned into nonpathogenic prokaryotic (E. coli) or lower eukaryotic host-vector systems • In vitro and in vivo infection studies with r/sNA S. pneumoniae **Containment Requirements:** • BSL-2 practices and procedures, including the use of an annually certified biosafety cabinet, will be used for all in vitro and ex vivo work with S. pneumoniae. • ABSL-2 practices and procedures, including the use of an annually certified biosafety cabinet, will be used for all in vivo work with S. pneumoniae. • 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.
13	--	--	26-138	(**III.D.1.a, III.D.1.b) Ochsenbauer, Christina; AFFIRM Award_Ochsenbauer (Establishing an Ex Vivo Model to Assess Effects of Hormone Treatment on Immune Parameters and HIV-1 Susceptibility on Cervical Mucosal Tissue)** **Reason for IBC:** • Creation of recombinant HIV-1 (encoding reporter genes) and subsequent infection of cell lines in vitro **Containment Requirements:** • BSL-2 enhanced containment practices and procedures, including the use of an annually certified biosafety cabinet, will be used for all in vitro work

				• The UAB HIV/Lentivirus Exposure Response Plan will be made available and reviewed by all working with HIV, lentiviral vectors, or retroviral vectors.
13	--	--	26-136	**(III.D.1.a, III.D.1.b) Ochsenbauer, Christina; The Effects of Masculinizing Gender-Affirming Hormone Therapy for Transgender Men on Susceptibility to HIV-1 Infection Modelled Ex Vivo in Cervical Mucosal Tissue** **Reason for IBC:** • Creation of recombinant HIV-1 (encoding reporter genes) and subsequent infection of cell lines in vitro **Containment Requirements:** • BSL-2 enhanced containment practices and procedures, including the use of an annually certified biosafety cabinet, will be used for all in vitro work • The UAB HIV/Lentivirus Exposure Response Plan will be made available and reviewed by all working with HIV, lentiviral vectors, or retroviral vectors.
13	--	--	26-152	**(III.D.3) Arrant, Andrew; Targeted progranulin therapy for TDP-43 Proteinopathy** **Reason for IBC:** • Use of recombinant AAV and lentiviral vectors to introduce transgenes into mammalian cells **Containment Requirements:** • BSL-2 practices and procedures, including the use of an annually certified biosafety cabinet, will be used for all in vitro work with lentiviral vectors and/or human cells • The UAB HIV/Lentivirus Exposure Response Plan will be made available and reviewed by all working with HIV, lentiviral vectors, or retroviral vectors.
13	--	--	26-141	**(III.D.3) Ochsenbauer, Christina; The Impact of Aging and Menopause Hormone Therapy on Hiv-1 Vulnerability in the Cervico-Vaginal Mucosa** **Reason for IBC:** • Creation of recombinant HIV-1 (encoding reporter genes) and subsequent infection of cell lines in vitro **Containment Requirements:** • BSL-2 enhanced containment practices and procedures, including the use of an annually certified biosafety cabinet, will be used for all in vitro work

				• The UAB HIV/Lentivirus Exposure Response Plan will be made available and reviewed by all working with HIV, lentiviral vectors, or retroviral vectors.
13	--	--	26-142	**(III.D.3) Ochsenbauer, Christina; Remnant Cervical Tissue for Investigating Impact of Menopause on Immune Determinants of HIV-1 Susceptibility** **Reason for IBC:** • Creation of recombinant HIV-1 (encoding reporter genes) and subsequent infection of cell lines in vitro **Containment Requirements:** • BSL-2 enhanced containment practices and procedures, including the use of an annually certified biosafety cabinet, will be used for all in vitro work • The UAB HIV/Lentivirus Exposure Response Plan will be made available and reviewed by all working with HIV, lentiviral vectors, or retroviral vectors.
13	--	--	25-079	**(III.D.4) Carter, Aaron; Regulation Of Disease Progression by ER Stress** **Reason for IBC:** • Use of lentiviral vectors (encoding shRNAs: RPAP2-targeting shRNA or non-targeting control shRNA) for administration to animals. • Production of r/sNA lentiviruses in HEK293 cells **Containment Requirements:** • BSL-2 practices and procedures, including the use of an annually certified biosafety cabinet, must be used for all work with lentivirus and human cells • ABSL-2 practice and procedures, including the posting of an AUSI, must be used for 14 days after the last LV administration, then ABSL-1 will suffice. • The UAB HIV/Lentivirus Exposure Response Plan will be made available and reviewed by all working with HIV, lentiviral vectors, or retroviral vectors.
12	--	1	25-146	**(III.D.4) Faul, Christian; Effects of Elevating Circulating Levels of Soluble Klotho on Mice with Klotho Deficiency** **Reason for IBC:** • Administration of LNP-mRNA to animals. **Containment Requirements:**

				• BSL-1 and ABSL-1 practices and procedures may be used for LNP-mRNA and administration to animals.
13	--	--	26-146	**(III.D.4.b) Hussain, Shah; Structural and Molecular Determinants of Airway Loss** **Reason for IBC:** • Modification to add Risk Group 2 organisms, Haemophilus influenzae, Streptococcus pneumoniae, and Staphylococcus aureus, for in vitro and in vivo studies **Containment Requirements:** • BSL-2 practices and procedures, including the use of an annually certified biosafety cabinet, will be used for all work with H. influenzae, S. pneumoniae, and S. aureus. • ABSL-2 practices and procedures, including the use of an annually certified biosafety cabinet, will be used for all work with H. influenzae, S. pneumoniae, and S. aureus. • The Animal Resources Program shall be notified, via the posting of an AUSI, of animals infected with H. influenzae, S. pneumoniae, and S. aureus. • Agent-specific safety and data plans are required to b • e prepared and made available to all personnel working with H. influenzae, S. pneumoniae, and S. aureus.
13	--	--	26-074	**(III.D.4) Wadiche, Jaques; Disruption of synaptic encoding of fed/fasted state in satiety-signaling hypothalamic neurons by an obesogenic diet** **Reason for IBC:** • Direct stereotactic injection of AAV into mice **Containment Requirements:** • BSL-1 practices and procedures may be used for manipulations of AAV • ABSL-2 practices and procedures, along with the positing of an AUSI, shall be used for 14 days after the last AAV administration, then ABSL-1 will suffice.

13	--	--	24-201	**(III.D.4) Yacoubian, Talene; Effects of 14-3-3θ phosphorylation vesicular transport and alpha-synuclein aggregation** **Reason for IBC:** • Administration of Adeno-associated viral vectors to animals • Creation and use of lentiviral vectors in vitro **Containment Requirements:** • BSL-1 practices and procedures may be used for AAV. • BSL-2 practices and procedures, with the use of an annually certified biosafety cabinet, will be used for all work with human cells, a-synuclein, and LV • ABSL-2 with AUSI will be used for 14 days after the last AAV administration, then ABSL1 should suffice. • Special Training Required: safe handling and laboratory cleaning with a-synuclein fibrils. • The UAB HIV/Lentivirus Exposure Response Plan will be made available and reviewed by all working with HIV, lentiviral vectors, or retroviral vectors.