

**Institutional Biosafety  
Committee Minutes**

**August 14, 2025**

**Zoom Meeting 1:30 pm**

**Members Present**

Bertram Jacobs  
Giorgio Scarpellini  
Drew Solomon  
Christopher Plaisier  
Matthew Scotch  
Mitch Magee  
Valerie Stout  
Yixin Shi  
Kathleen Kennedy

**Affiliated Participants**

Sarah Hurd  
Karen Stevenson  
Amanda Rice  
Suzanne Kennedy  
Mary Turlington-Powell

**Institutional Official**

Deb Murphy

**Visitors Present**

Yuval Mazor  
Masmudur Rahman  
Ami Gutierrez-Jensen  
Jonathan Gewirtz

**Supporting Participants**

Kristy Macdonald  
Samantha Sullivan  
Nicole Shepherd

Note: This meeting was conducted via Zoom. Meeting Format: Open meeting

**Call to Order:** The IBC Chair called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm and a quorum was confirmed. Introductions were made.

**Minutes**

The meeting minutes from July 10, 2025, were reviewed by the committee. A motion was made to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded.

Total Vote: 9      Approved: 8      Opposed: 0      Abstained: 1      Recused: 0

**Conflicts of Interest**

The IBC Chair called for conflicts. No conflicts were reported.

**Disclosures for Committee Review:**

**Mazor SPROTO2025-49 (BSL1 Renewal)**

**Mazor Photosystems**

**Primary Reviewer: Valerie Stout**

The PI provided an overview of the disclosure and responded to questions posed by the committee members. The lab is conducting research on the structure of proteins involved in light capture during photosynthesis. The following changes were administratively made to the disclosure:

- Added Synechocystis sp. (PCC6803) to Question 8 on the Recombinant or Synthetic Nucleic Acid Work Description page.

Discussion confirmed that Biosafety Level 1 precautions, training, and personal protective equipment are appropriate as proposed. Based on committee discussion, the NIH Guidelines classification for this disclosure was determined to be sections III-D, III-D-6, III-E, III-F, III-F -1, and III-F-8, Appendix C-II.

A motion was made to approve the disclosure as modified. The motion was seconded.

Total Vote: 9      Approved: 9      Opposed: 0      Abstained: 0      Recused: 0

**Gewirtz SPROTO2025-54 (BSL2 New Disclosure)**

**Neurobiology of Opioid Addiction**

**Primary Reviewer: Mitch Magee**

The PI provided an overview of the disclosure and responded to questions posed by the committee members. The lab is conducting research on mechanisms that confer susceptibility or resistance in Opioid Use Disorder. The following changes were administratively made to the disclosure:

- Added “rat” to Question 8 on the Recombinant or Synthetic Nucleic Acid Work Description page.

The committee requested the following items be completed to secure approval of the disclosure:

- Coordinate with EHS to update the ASU Biological Exposure Medical Form for BSL2.

Discussion confirmed that Biosafety Level 2 precautions, training, and personal protective equipment are appropriate as proposed. Based on committee discussion, the NIH Guidelines classification for this disclosure was determined to be sections III-D, III-D-4, III-D-4-a, III-F, and III-F-1. A motion was made to appoint a Designated Reviewer to ensure the changes requested by the committee are made. The motion was seconded.

Total Vote: 9      Approved: 9      Opposed: 0      Abstained: 0      Recused: 0

**Rahman SPROTO2025-62 (BSL2 Renewal)**

**Rahman Lab Biosafety Disclosure Review**

**Primary Reviewer: Chris Plaisier**

The PI provided an overview of the disclosure and responded to questions posed by the committee members. The lab is conducting research on virus-host interactions, innate immunity, and cellular transformation and use of oncolytic viruses for cancer treatments. The following changes were administratively made to the disclosure:

- Checked Yes for Question 2 on the Genetically Modified Animals: DNA Source page.
- Unchecked III-D-4-a on the NIH Guidelines page.
- Checked III-D-1, III-D-1-a, III-D-2, III-D-2-a, and III-D-4-b on the NIH Guidelines page.

The committee requested the following items be completed to secure approval of the disclosure:

- Coordinate with EHS to complete a lab inspection.

Discussion confirmed that Biosafety Level 2 precautions, training, and personal protective equipment are appropriate as proposed. Based on committee discussion, the NIH Guidelines classification for this disclosure was determined to be sections III-D, III-D-1, III-D-1-a, III-D-2, III-D-2-a, III-D-3, III-D-3-a, III-D-4, III-D-4-b, III-F, III-F-1, III-F-8, Appendices C-I, C-II, and C-VII. A motion was made to appoint a Designated Reviewer to ensure the changes requested by the committee are made. The motion was seconded.

Total Vote: 9      Approved: 9      Opposed: 0      Abstained: 0      Recused: 0

**Additional Business:**

**Consent Agenda**

The committee reviewed and acknowledged the consent agenda.

**1. Biosafety Officer’s Report**

- The Biosafety Officer informed the committee of a recent transgenic animal bite. The student reported to Employee Health for treatment.
- The Biosafety Officer informed the committee of a large-scale incident. The incident

involved large quantities of wild type algae. After discussion the committee determined they did not want to bring large-scale, non-recombinant, BSL1 research under their purview. For covered materials, a determination needs to be made on what is considered large scale. A subcommittee was formed to review and analyze the NIH Guidelines to provide a recommendation to the committee on if 10L in multiple containers is considered large scale.

- The IACUC/IBC Manager informed the committee that her last day with ASU is Tuesday, August 19<sup>th</sup>.
2. **Education Item:** RFK Jr. Cancels Nearly \$500 Million in mRNA Vaccine Contracts
  3. **Education Item:** mRNA vaccines for HIV trigger strong immune response in people

The meeting was adjourned at 2:53 pm. The next IBC Meeting will be held on September 11, 2025 at 1:30 pm.