

**Institutional Biosafety
Committee Minutes
February 12, 2026
Zoom Meeting 1:30 pm**

Members Present

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

Affiliated Participants

Sarah Hurd
Karen Stevenson
Mary Turlington-Powell
Amanda Rice
Anne Nelson

Supporting Participants

Bree Prinzhorn
Nancy Henderson

Visitors Present

Stanimir Tashev
Susan Holechek
Benjamin Manus
Anne Jones
Phoebe Dunn
David Brafman
Julian Chen
Amanda Witten
Crystal Willingham

Institutional Official

Deb Murphy

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 January 8, 2026, were reviewed by the committee. A motion was made to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded.

Total Vote: 10 Approved: 10 Opposed: 0 Abstained: 0 Recused: 0

Conflicts of Interest

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

Disclosures for Committee Review:

Holechek SPROTO2025-69 (BSL2 New Disclosure)

Holechek Academic Research Lab

Primary Reviewer: Hugh Mason

The PI provided an overview of the disclosure and responded to questions posed by the committee members. The lab is conducting research on student-focused academics designed to provide research experience in modern cell and molecular biology.

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-a, III-F-1, and III-F-8, Appendices C-I and C-II. A motion was made to approve the disclosure as presented. The motion was seconded.

Total Vote: 10 Approved: 10 Opposed: 0 Abstained: 0 Recused: 0

Chen, Julian SPROTO2026-05 (BSL2 Renewal)

Telomerase Structure and Function

Primary Reviewer: Matthew Scotch

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, function, biogenesis, and evolution of telomerase ribonucleoprotein complex in various eukaryotic lineages. The following changes were administratively made to the disclosure:

- Checked section III-D-2-a on the NIH Guidelines page.

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

- Add ATCC number to Klebsiela strain.

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-2, III-D-2-a, III-E, III-E-1, and III-F-8, Appendices C-I, C-II, and C-III. 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: 10 Approved: 10 Opposed: 0 Abstained: 0 Recused: 0

Jones SPROTO2026-06 (BSL1 Renewal)

Jones – Living Electronics

Primary Reviewer: Giorgio Scarpellini

The PI provided an overview of the disclosure and responded to questions posed by the committee members. The lab is conducting research on oxidation and reduction reactions that occur when producing alternative fuels.

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-E, III-F-1, and III-F-8, Appendix C-II. A motion was made to approve the disclosure as presented. The motion was seconded.

Total Vote: 10 Approved: 10 Opposed: 0 Abstained: 0 Recused: 0

Brafman SPROTO2026-04 (BSL2 Renewal)

Brafman Lab Research

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 bioengineering approaches to studying stem cell microenvironments. The following changes were administratively made to the disclosure:

- Updated lentivirus to 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-1, III-D-1-a, III-E, III-E-1, III-F-1, and III-F-8, Appendices C-I and C-II. A motion was made to approve the disclosure as modified. The motion was seconded.

Total Vote: 10 Approved: 10 Opposed: 0 Abstained: 0 Recused: 0

Stabenfeldt SPROTO2026-01 (BSL2 Renewal)

Detection and Treatment of Brain Injury

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 developing novel diagnostics and therapeutics for neurotrauma. The following changes were administratively made to the disclosure:

- Unchecked section III-D-3-e on the NIH Guidelines page.

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-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: 10

Approved: 10

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Recused: 0

Presse SPROTO2025-94 (BSL1 Renewal)

Presse Wet Lab

Primary Reviewer: Mitch Magee

The lab manager provided an overview of the disclosure and responded to questions posed by the committee members. The lab is conducting research on quantitatively characterizing bacterial population dynamics within individual hosts by tracking E. coli populations in C. elegans. The following changes were administratively made to the disclosure:

- Unchecked section III-F-6 on the NIH Guidelines 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-4, III-D-4-a, and III-F-8, Appendices C-I and C-II. A motion was made to approve the disclosure as modified. The motion was seconded.

Total Vote: 10

Approved: 10

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 an incident that occurred in a lab on February 3, 2026. A lab member was slicing fixed brain tissue from a transgenic mouse when they cut themselves while picking up a blade holder. The lab member was retrained on the procedure for removing the blade and the lab is obtaining cut-resistant gloves for cryostat work. The incident was reported to the NIH.
- The Biosafety Officer informed the committee of the high-containment labs being shut down in January. EHS hosted Tempe Police and Fire to familiarize them with the space and work that is conducted. A drill was held and minor changes are being implemented to the Emergency Response Plan.
- The Biosafety Team is currently working on edits and changes to the Biosafety Manual and Bloodborne Pathogen Exposure Control Plan. Edits will be sent to the IBC for review and awareness.

- NIH listening sessions are being held regarding the NIH “Modernizing and Strengthening Biosafety Policies, Practices, and Oversight”. The next listening session will be held on February 26, 2026.

2. Notification of BSL3 Training Program Addition/Amendment approved on January 28, 2026

The committee was informed of a lab member who was approved to enter the BSL3 training program.

3. Capstone Discussion

Chris Plaisier provided the committee with an overview of a capstone course that is currently taking place at ASU. Course participants will collaborate with the Mayo Clinic to participate in lab work in Mayo Clinic space. The committee determined a blanket disclosure will be sufficient to maintain oversight of the capstone course. Additional information will be provided to the committee as it becomes available.

The committee entered executive session at 2:50 pm.

4. Lab Closure – Executive Session

The committee reviewed the closure of a lab in the School of Life Sciences.

The committee exited executive session at 3:00 pm.

5. Education Item: Single-dose HIV vaccine candidate induces neutralizing antibodies

The meeting was adjourned at 3:02 pm. The next IBC Meeting will be held on March 19, 2026 at 1:30 pm.