UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

INSTITUTIONAL BIOSAFETY COMMITTEE

Minutes

Tuesday, 1 October 2025

On-line meeting

14h00-16h00

Committee members

Prof M Moshabela	*ex officio*
Prof J Murugan (acting)	*ex officio*
Prof E Ramugondo	*ex officio*
Prof B Collier-Reed	*ex officio*
Prof Digby Warner	(IBC Chair)
Dr Thomas Oelgeschläger	(Chair, SCI FBC & Deputy IBC Chair)
A/Prof Suraj Parihar	(Chair, FHS FBC & Deputy IBC Chair)
Ms Bronwyn Arendze-Bailey	(Scientific Officer)
Prof Johan Burger	(Community Member – Plant Expert)
vacant	(Community Member)
Mrs Paula Saner	(Acting Director: ORI)
Vacant	(FHS, Health, Safety and Biosafety Manager)
Dr Tshepo Matjila	(RAF Director)
Ms Kim Van Reenen	(Environmental Risk Manager)
Dr Sandiswa Mbewana	(SCI Representative – Plant Expert)
Dr Sarita Groenewald	(Biosafety & Biosecurity Specialist)
Prof Robert Wilkinson	Co-opted committee member
Dr Ros Chapman	Co-opted committee member

Servicing Officer

Mrs Suraya Azam
Ms Lisa Williams (back-up)

By invitation:

Dr Blessing Silaigwana (FHS: RDU)
Ms Olivia Langenhoven (FHS: RDU)
Ms Kirshni Naidoo (Director: Occupational Health & Safety)
Ms Thando Mdaka (Research Integrity Coordinator: Investigations

Attendees

Prof Digby Warner
Dr Thomas Oelgeschläger
A/Prof Suraj Parihar
Ms Bronwyn Arendze-Bailey
Prof Johan Burger
Mrs Paula Saner
Ms Kim Van Reenen
Dr Sarita Groenewald
Ms Thando Mdaka
Ms Lisa Williams
Mrs Suraya Azam

Apologies

Dr Tshepo Matjila
Prof Robert Wilkinson
Dr Ros Chapman
Dr Sandiswa Mbewana
Dr Blessing Silaigwana
Ms Olivia Langenhoven

1 PRELIMINARY MATTERS

1.1 Welcome and Apologies

Apologies received from Dr Tshepo Matjila, Prof Robert Wilkinson, Dr Ros Chapman, Dr Sandiswa Mbewana, Dr Blessing Silaigwana and Ms Olivia Langenhoven

2 QUORUM

The meeting achieved quorum.

3 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

All members duly sent their responses confirming no conflicts of interest.

4 CONFIRMATION OF 2 SETS OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes from 27 August 2025 were accepted with no corrections.

5 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

5.1 Update on the appointment of new community members

The Chair reported that two new community members will need to be appointed from 2026. The Chair has approached Emeritus Prof Hugh Corder for advice on identifying a candidate with legal expertise and will provide an update at the next meeting.

5.2 Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) training requirement

The Chair reminded members to complete Modules 1, 2, 3, and 4 of the Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) training. Certificates of completion must be submitted to the IBC servicing officer, who will be responsible for collating and tracking submissions and providing feedback to Internal Audit as soon as possible. The Servicing Officer will arrange a meeting and schedule a designated timeslot in members' diaries for the completion of the RCR modules in advance of the next IBC meeting.

5.3 Revised IBC ToR (Terms of Office updated)

The Terms of Office section of the IBC Terms of Reference (ToR) document has been updated to reflect the amendments proposed. The Committee reviewed and endorsed these amendments.

6 MATTERS FOR REVIEW AND DISCUSSION

6.1 The following new protocols were discussed:

6.1.1 ***The use of Cannabidiol as an adjunctive treatment for tuberculous meningitis in C3HeB/FeJ mice***

A/Prof Suraj Parihar

Risk Group 3

Scientific rationale

This study is aimed at ascertaining if CBD as an adjunctive treatment with a standardized TB treatment regime will improve the outcome in TBM. Ultimately, if this study is successful in showing that CBD is useful in the management of TBM and does not impede TBM treatment, then human clinical trials will be promoted. The samples that will be harvested and processed are from *M. tuberculosis* H37Rv- and *M. bovis* BCG-infected mice. Infected mice will be humanely euthanized at various experimental timepoint, and various organs will be harvested. Sharp, sterile scissors and tweezers will be used. Various organs of the infected mice will be collected for colony forming unit enumeration, flow cytometry and histological analysis. Other samples will be collected for metabolic and microbiome analysis. The samples will be moved from the Animal Unit BSL3 to the BSL3 for experimental analysis.

The committee agreed that the study is pending approval subject to the PI's confirmation of details about the mouse strain used in the study.

6.1.2 ***A phase 1, placebo-controlled, blinded dose escalation study to evaluate the safety and immunogenicity of mRNAs encoding HIV immunogens (eOD-GT8 60mer, core-g28v2 60mer, N332-GT5 gp151) in adult participants without HIV and in overall good health in South Africa – HVTN317***

Dr Sheetal Kassim

Risk Group 2

Scientific rationale

This is a clinical trial, first in humans, testing mRNA HIV vaccines in human participants. The vaccine is not produced at the clinical research site (CRS). This is a phase 1, dose-escalation study to evaluate the safety and immunogenicity of mRNAs encoding HIV immunogens (eOD-GT8 60mer, core-g28v2 60mer, N332-GT5 gp151) in 96 adult participants without HIV and in general good health.

Primary objectives - To assess the safety and tolerability of the vaccine regimens and to evaluate the induction of VRC01- or BG18-class IgG B cell responses by the vaccine regimens. Secondary objective, to evaluate vaccine-specific and epitope-specific binding Ab responses elicited by the vaccine regimens

Study products:eOD-GT8 60mer mRNA (mRNA-1645-eODGT8): eOD-GT8 60mer is a self-assembling nanoparticle composed of 60 subunits of the engineered HIV-1 gp120 outer domain germline targeting version 8 (eOD-GT8) fused to an engineered form of a bacterial enzyme, Lumazine Synthase, through a 15- amino acid Glycine-Serine linker. eOD-GT8 60mer will be delivered using an mRNA lipid nanoparticle (LNP) platform. To be administered by intramuscular (IM) injection at doses of 10 or 30 mcg.

The committee confirmed the study is pending approval subject to the following:

- Biological agent form needs to be completed as the study involves the collection of human samples.
- Worker registration forms need to be completed

A/Prof Parihar will contact the PI to advise her of the concerns raised by the IBC.

Dr Groenewald raised the concern that the current F-IBC application form does not make adequate provision for studies involving mRNA vaccines given they are not specifically GMOs. The committee agreed

that revisions were required to the F-IBC form to address this shortcoming and will be reviewed at the next IBC meeting (in October).

7 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

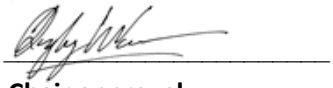
7.1 ORI STAFFING MATTERS

Mrs Saner informed the committee that interviews for the ORI Director position are scheduled to take place on 6 November 2025. It is anticipated that a suitable candidate will be appointed and commence duties in early 2026. The IBC servicing officer, Mrs Azam, has accepted a position within UCT Research Contracts and Innovation (RC&I) and will depart ORI on 19 November 2025. A replacement will be identified within ORI and will work with Mrs Azam in the interim to gain familiarity with IBC processes.

The meeting ended at 15h00.

6 November 2025

Date



Chair approval