

UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN
INSTITUTIONAL BIOSAFETY COMMITTEE



Minutes

Wednesday, 25 June 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)
Dr Lyn Horn (Director: ORI)
Ms Nzwakie Gxumisa (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)
Mrs Paula Saner (Manager: ORI)
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
Dr Lyn Horn
Ms Nzwakie Gxumisa
Dr Tshepo Matjila
Ms Kim Van Reenen
Dr Sarita Groenewald
Dr Sandiswa Mbewana
Prof Robert Wilkinson
Dr Blessing Silaigwana
Ms Olivia Langenhoven
Ms Kirshni Naidoo
Mrs Paula Saner & Mrs Azam

Apologies:

Ms Thando Mdaka & Ms Lisa Williams

<p>1 PRELIMINARY MATTERS</p> <p>1.1 Welcome and Apologies</p> <p>Apologies received from Ms Mdaka and Ms Williams.</p>
<p>2 QUORUM</p> <p>The meeting achieved quorum.</p>
<p>3 DECLARATION OF INTEREST</p> <p>All members duly sent their responses.</p>
<p>4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING</p> <p>The minutes from 28 May 2025 were accepted with no corrections.</p>
<p>5 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES</p> <p>5.1 Update on the appointment of new community member</p> <p>The Chair reported that the identified nominee declined the nomination. The item will be carried forward to the next meeting.</p> <p>5.2 Revised IBC ToR</p> <p>The ToR were updated to include oversight of DURC and PEPP. Members were asked to review the revised ToR and submit comments by the July meeting. If no comments are received, the ToR will be finalised.</p> <p>5.3 F/IBC Amendment Form</p> <p>The amendment form has been updated and circulated. Members are invited to submit feedback to Mrs Azam. A/Prof Parihar suggested sharing the form with research groups for input, which the IBC supported.</p> <p>5.4 Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) training requirement</p> <p>UCT Internal Audit requires all members to complete Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) training Modules 1 to 4. Certificates must be submitted to the IBC servicing officer by 31 August 2025. The modules are CPD-accredited and recognised by the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA).</p>
<p>6 MATTERS FOR REVIEW AND DISCUSSION</p> <p>6.1 New Protocols for review</p> <p>6.1.1 <i>The systematic characterisation of functional long noncoding RNAs that underpin Candida auris and Candida albicans adaptation (NRF funded)</i></p> <p>Dr Caroline Ross</p> <p>Approved with the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PI must obtain R178 registration for the culture of human pathogens.

6.1.2 *Decoding the functional roles and regulation of chromatin remodelers in neurodevelopment (NRF funded)*

Dr Caroline Ross

Approved with the following conditions:

- HREC approval required for use of human embryonic stem cells.
- Minor revision required to protocol to clarify methodology.
- GMO facility certificate must be renewed and updated to include the lentiviral strain.

6.2 Protocol amendments for discussion

The committee reviewed and approved the following protocol amendments:

6.2.1 *Integration of Covid-19 and tuberculosis case-finding by face mask sampling – IBC002-2022*

Dr Simon Mendelsohn

6.2.2 *A phase 2a clinical trial to evaluate the safety and immunogenicity of MTBVAC in adolescents and adults living with and without HIV in South Africa HVTN605/A5421 – IBC003-2023*

Honorary Professor Rodney Dawson

7 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

7.1 Biorisk Management Workshop at IDM

A Biorisk Management Workshop will be hosted in the Institute of Infectious Disease & Molecular Medicine (IDM) on 27 June 2025 by Ms Selisha Naidoo; this event is open to the Faculty of Health Sciences and broader University. Ms Guxmisa will be a guest speaker, and Dr Groenewald will participate, too. IBC members were invited to attend.

7.2 Expedited reviews

Mrs Saner raised the possibility of expedited review for studies affected by the cessation of NIH funding, where the only amendment is a change in sponsor. Dr Oelgeschläger noted that a change in sponsor did not pose a biosafety risk and should therefore be eligible for expedited approval. Following discussion, the IBC agreed that expedited review was possible, but would require formal motivation, with standard application procedures applying unless justified.

7.3 Cleared audit report for the RAF BSL2 facility received

Dr Groenewald reported that the cleared audit report for the Research Animal Facility (RAF) ABSL2+ laboratory had been received.

7.4 Pls to use latest IBC forms

The Chair reminded members that the April 2025 version of the F-IBC forms must be used. Mrs Saner confirmed that the forms are available on the website of UCT's Office of Research Integrity (ORI) and were circulated via the biosafety newsletter.

The meeting ended at 15h15.

7 August 2025

Date

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R. J. W.', written over a horizontal line.

Chair approval