

UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN
INSTITUTIONAL BIOSAFETY COMMITTEE



Minutes

Wednesday, 29 October 2025

On-line meeting

Committee members

Prof M Moshabela	<i>ex officio</i>
Prof J Murugan (acting)	<i>ex officio</i>
Prof E Ramugondo	<i>ex officio</i>
Prof B Collier-Reed	<i>ex officio</i>

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
Dr Tshepo Matjila
Ms Kim Van Reenen
Dr Sandiswa Mbewana
Dr Sarita Groenewald
Dr Blessing Silaigwana
Ms Olivia Langenhoven
Ms Lisa Williams
Ms Thando Mdaka
Mrs Suraya Azam

Apologies:

Mrs Paula Saner
Dr Sandiswa Mbewana
Prof Robert Wilkinson
Dr Ros Chapman
Prof Johan Burger

1 PRELIMINARY MATTERS

1.1 Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed Advocate Peter Hodes, who has joined the IBC to serve as one of the Community Members. The Chair expressed appreciation to Advocate Hodes for agreeing to serve in this capacity and noted that his appointment addresses one of the items scheduled for discussion later in the agenda.

Apologies received from Prof Burger, Dr Chapman, Mrs Saner, Dr Mbewana and Prof Wilkinson.

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 01 October 2025 were accepted with no corrections.

5 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

5.1 Update on the appointment of new community members

The Chair noted that this item remains a standing agenda matter. Members were informed that a new community member has joined the Committee. The current community member will serve until the end of the year, after which another new member will be appointed. From next year, the Committee will have two newly appointed Community Members.

5.2 Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) training requirement

The Committee received an update on the completion of the RCR training modules. Members were thanked for their participation. A few members have not yet completed the training and were asked to do so and submit their certificates for audit purposes. The Committee noted that completion of the RCR training is an internal audit requirement for all IBC members. New members will be given access to the training and are expected to complete it within a reasonable timeframe after appointment.

5.3 Updating of F-IBC Forms

The Committee discussed proposed updates to the F-IBC application forms to include work involving mRNA vaccines and advanced therapeutic technologies, which are not covered in the current forms. A new section titled "Advanced Therapeutics and Vaccines" has been proposed to support appropriate biosafety risk assessment for these areas. The Committee noted that the existing GMM and GMO forms do not fully address these types of research. Input from subject matter experts will be sought to refine the draft questions and ensure adequate oversight.

Action item

The servicing officer and committee members will identify suitable experts to review and provide feedback on the proposed revisions to the F-IBC application forms.

6 MATTERS FOR REVIEW AND DISCUSSION

6.1 Amendments of protocols for discussion

The Committee approved the amendment.

6.1.1 *Integration of COVID-19 and Tuberculosis Case-Finding by Face Mask Sampling*

Dr Simon Mendelsohn

6.2 Noting of protocols for discussion

The Committee noted four protocols that had been approved at faculty level and required no further review. No concerns were raised.

6.2.1 *Immunity to Respiratory Syncytial virus (RSV) infection and vaccination*

Dr Roanne Keeton

6.2.2 *MRoots: Grassroots AMR in small-scale farming communities*

Prof Helen McIleron

6.2.3 *An open-label randomised controlled trial to evaluate the effectiveness, safety, and benefit-risk balance of one month of daily rifapentine with isoniazid added to diabetes standard of care, compared to diabetes standard of care alone, to prevent TB in people with diabetes*

Prof Molebogeng Xheedha Rangaka

6.2.4 *Seroprevalence of mpox in key populations in South Africa SAFE – Serological Assessment For mpox Exposure*

Dr Yashna Singh

7 2025 ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORTS

The Committee reviewed the 2025 Annual Progress Reports (APRs) submitted for all active studies. A total of 79 reports were received:

- 67 studies will continue into the next reporting period, and
- 12 studies will close.

The Committee noted that no biosafety concerns were identified in any of the submitted reports. The Committee approved the APR outcomes.

8 UCT INTEGRATED BIORISK MANAGEMENT POLICY

The Committee received an update on the development of the UCT Integrated Virus Risk Management Policy. A draft framework has been prepared, and Committee input will be obtained through a dedicated workshop. The policy will include key external assessments and national biosafety considerations. The workshop is planned for late November or early December, depending on availability. The Committee supported the proposal, and dates will be confirmed in due course.

9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Committee noted that this was the final meeting attended by the current Servicing Officer in that role. The Chair thanked the officer for their contribution and wished them well in their new position.

No other matters were raised.

10 DATES OF FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

The final meeting of the year is scheduled for 26 November. The Committee will confirm the meeting format (in-person, online, or hybrid) nearer the time.

The Chair thanked members for their participation and closed the meeting.

The meeting ended at 14h45.

Date



Chair approval