

UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN
INSTITUTIONAL BIOSAFETY COMMITTEE



Minutes

Wednesday, 30 July 2025

In-person

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

A/Prof Suraj Parihar
Dr Thomas Oelgeschläger
Ms Bronwyn Arendze-Bailey
Dr Lyn Horn
Ms Nzwakie Gxumisa
Dr Tshepo Matjila
Dr Sandiswa Mbewana
Dr Sarita Groenewald
Dr Ros Chapman
Dr Blessing Silaigwana
Mrs Paula Saner
Ms Tando Mdaka
Ms Lisa Williams
Mrs Suraya Azam

Online

Prof Johan Burger
Ms Kim Van Reenen

Apologies

Prof Digby Warner
Prof Robert Wilkinson
Ms Olivia Langenhoven

1 PRELIMINARY MATTERS

1.1 Welcome and Apologies

Apologies received from Prof Warner, Prof Wilkinson and Ms Langenhoven. The meeting was co-chaired by A/Prof Parihar and Dr Oelgeschläger.

2 QUORUM

The meeting achieved quorum.

3 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

All members duly sent their responses.

4 CONFIRMATION OF TWO SETS MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes from 25 June 2025 were accepted with no corrections.

5 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

5.1 Update on the appointment of new community member

The matter will be carried over to the next meeting as the Chair was not present.

5.2 Revised IBC ToR

The IBC ToR document was accepted by all members and will be presented at SEC by Mrs Saner.

5.3 F/IBC Amendment Form

The F-IBC amendment form should be updated to include hyperlinks on page 2 to improve navigation for Pls.

5.4 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 by 31 August 2025.

6 MATTERS FOR REVIEW AND DISCUSSION

6.1 New Protocols for review

Faculty of Health Sciences

6.1.1 *Postmortem research to investigate tissue immune features associated with infectious diseases and associated co- morbidities.*

Dr Virginie Rozot

The study was approved by the committee, subject to the extension of the HREC approval.

6.2 Protocol amendments for discussion

6.2.1 *ITL-2002-CL-301 - HAELO: A Phase 3, Multinational, Randomized, Double-blind, Placebo-controlled Study to Evaluate the Efficacy and Safety of NTLA-2002 in Participants with Hereditary Angioedema*

Prof Jonathan Peter

The study was approved by the committee, subject to the extension of the HREC approval.

6.3 Protocols for Noting

The committee noted the following protocols:

6.3.1 *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 – IBC015-2025*

A/Prof Steven Innes

6.3.2 *Systemic effects of gastrointestinal colonisation with Candida albicans.*

Dr Alisha Chetty

6.3.3 *Performance evaluation of the VIDAS® TB-IGRA assay – Clinical Trial 2 (The Active TB Study).*

Prof Keertan Dheda

7 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

7.1 Operational Matters - Facility Audits

Dr Groenewald has commenced facility audits, working with Ms Van Reenen to review administrative controls, facilities, and equipment. SOPs are being reviewed and feedback is shared with lab managers. Three inspections have been completed, with one report submitted. No major issues have been identified. Dr Groenewald invited members to suggest facilities to prioritise for audit.

H3D Facility Security Breach

The H3D facility has experienced several break-ins due to a low perimeter fence. These incidents are considered a biosecurity near-miss and should be formally reported. A maglock has since been installed on the front door and a security gate at the back door, windows have been sealed and the outside light has been repaired. Although animals are housed in this facility, none were released.

Dr Matjila raised concern about the slow response from CPS and P&S. Dr Groenewald will escalate the matter to the Central Occupational Health and Safety Advisory Committee (COHSAC).

7.2 More staff required at FHS Admin department

The UCT Lung Institute has expressed concerns about delays in receiving feedback from the FHS FBC, attributing the issue to a shortage of administrative support. These delays are affecting research progress and funding. The matter will be included in the IBC Annual Report under staff capacity.

7.3 Farewell to Dr Horn

The committee acknowledged Dr Horn's contributions and service. Mrs Saner noted that Dr Horn joined UCT in 2017 and has strongly promoted values-based ethical research. She played a key role in developing policies that improved research governance and compliance. Under her leadership, the Office for Research Integrity (ORI) grew from one to six staff members.

Dr Horn helped establish systems and processes that continue to support ORI's work. Her leadership and institutional knowledge will be missed. The committee thanked her for her commitment to ethical research and her lasting impact on research integrity at UCT.

The meeting ended at 14h37.

28 August 2025

Date

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Saner', written over a horizontal line.

Chair approval