Georgia Institute of Technology
Institutional Biosafety Committee
Meeting Minutes
October 1, 2026
10:00 AM

Voting Members Present:
A-ME (Chair)
K-BIOL (Interim Chair)
K-NAM
D-NAM
T-ORIA
S-BME
KA-ORIA
K-EHS

Voting Members Absent:
S-BIOL

Non-voting Attendees:
KS-ORIA

The full Committee roster is posted publicly on the Georgia Tech website. All requests from the public to join a Georgia Tech IBC meeting are considered upon request. No such requests were received for this meeting.

1. **A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 10:00 am.**

2. **Approval of September 3, 2026, Minutes**
The September IBC minutes were sent to the committee for review. No modifications were requested.

Motion: Approve the minutes as written.
Approve: Seven **Disapprove: None** **Abstain: One**

3. **Registrations/Amendments for Discussion at Today's Meeting**

EMELIANOV - R100331 (New)
Title: Augmented intrathecal delivery of viral vectors to the spinal cord via contrast-enhanced ultrasound
Funding: NIH
Category: Non-Exempt, BSL-2, ABSL-1, Section III-D-4
Discussion Leaders: K-BIOL, D-NAM

The Committee and BSO reviewed this submission and evaluated the risk assessment and proposed biocontainment plan. The goal of the proposed work is to study ways to deliver genes to the spinal cord and brain, treating ALS. The proposed use of protein markers, cell lines and virus/viral vectors indicates that this work should be classified as Non-Exempt, BSL-2, ABSL-1, Section III-D-4. The Committee found that the facilities, procedures, practices, training, and expertise of personnel described in this protocol are appropriate for the proposed work. The PI has identified the potential risks involved with this research and has included plans to mitigate such risks that are suitable for the research described. A Committee member initially recommended a reduction in the amount of background information and replacement of technical language with more lay terms, but upon further read the Committee decided to approve the protocol as written.

Motion: Approve the protocol.
Approve: Eight **Disapprove: None** **Abstain: None**

STREELMAN - R100332 (New)
Title: Sindbis Virus Infection Test in Lake Malawi Cichlid Neurons
Funding: NIH, Discretionary
Category: Non-Exempt, BSL-1, ABSL-2, Section III-D-1, III-F1-6, III-F8
Discussion Leaders: K-EHS, T-ORIA

The Committee and BSO reviewed this submission and evaluated the risk assessment and proposed biocontainment plan. The goal of the proposed work is to identify specific brain regions and neural circuits that control mating behaviors to better understand how genes shape social actions. The proposed use of single-reporter transgenes, virus/viral vectors and gene tags indicates that this work should be classified as Non-Exempt, BSL-1, ABSL-2, Section III-D-1, III-F1-6, III-F8. The Committee found that the facilities, procedures, practices, training, and expertise of personnel described in this protocol are appropriate for the proposed work. The PI has identified the potential risks involved with this research and has included plans to mitigate such risks that are suitable for the research described. The Committee found that there needs to be a change in the containment level and procedures related to containment.

Motion: Approve the protocol once the containment status is updated.
Approve: Eight **Disapprove: None** **Abstain: None**

TEMENOFF - R100334 (New)
Title: Mitochondria therapy for volumetric muscle loss repair
Funding: Discretionary
Category: Non-Exempt, BSL-2, ABSL-1, Section III-D-4
Discussion Leaders: A-ME, K-BIOL

The Committee and BSO reviewed this submission and evaluated the risk assessment and proposed biocontainment plan. The goal of the proposed work is to improve muscle regeneration following volumetric muscle loss (VML) injury by promoting the uptake of healthy mitochondria by cells in the injured muscle. The proposed use of a fluorescent reporter, cell lines and virus/viral vectors indicate that this work should be classified as Non-Exempt, BSL-2, ABSL-1, Section III-D-4. The Committee found that the facilities, procedures, practices, training, and expertise of personnel described in this protocol are appropriate for the proposed work. The PI has identified the potential risks involved with this research and has included plans to mitigate such risks that are suitable for the research described. The Committee had no major safety concerns with this protocol.

Motion: Approve protocol as written.
Approve: Eight **Disapprove: None** **Abstain: None**

FAN - R100030 (Renewal)
Title: Role of Linker Histone H1 and Epigenetic Gene Regulation
Funding: Discretionary
Category: Non-Exempt, BSL-2, ABSL-1, Section II-B, III-E-3
Discussion Leaders: S-BME, KA-ORIA

The Committee and BSO reviewed this protocol renewal submission and evaluated the risk assessment and proposed biocontainment plan. The goal of the proposed work is to use molecular, cellular, genomic, and genetic approaches to elucidate how multiple levels of epigenetic regulation are coordinated to ensure the proper establishment and maintenance of tissue and cell type specific functions. The proposed use of E. coli, plasmids, cell transfection, lentiviral vectors, and live animals indicates that this work should be classified as Non-Exempt,

BSL-2, ABSL-1, Section II-B, III-E-3. The Committee found that the facilities, procedures, practices, training, and expertise of personnel described in this protocol are appropriate for the proposed work. The PI has identified the potential risks involved with this research and has included plans to mitigate such risks that are suitable for the research described. The Committee found that the protocol was missing mention of lentiviral vectors in the risk assessment document; otherwise, the protocol was well written.

Motion: Approve the protocol pending inclusion of viral vectors in the risk assessment (to be confirmed by ORIA).

Approve: Eight **Disapprove: None** **Abstain: None**

4. **Other business**

PNC R100081

The Committee discussed a situation involving research activities that continued after the protocol expired. Available information was reviewed, including the timeline of protocol expirations and subsequent work activities. The Committee discussed institutional reporting obligations, investigator notification procedures, and the requirement that research activities cease when approvals expire. Following discussion, the Committee decided to report the matter as noncompliance to the NIH Office of Science Policy (OSP).

Motion: Report the protocol expiration as a non-compliance to NIH OSP, contact the PI and the PI's Chair informing them of the non-compliance.

Approve: Eight **Disapprove: None** **Abstain: None**

5. **Registrations/Amendments for Discussion at Today's Meeting (continued)**

SULCHECK - R100335 (New)
Title: Delivery of nucleic acid reagents to cells with microfluidics
Funding: Discretionary
Category: Non-Exempt, BSL-2, Section III-D-3
Discussion Leaders: A-ME, K-NAM

The Committee and BSO reviewed this submission and evaluated the risk assessment and proposed biocontainment plan. The goal of the proposed work is to use microfluidics to study how to efficiently deliver DNA, mRNA, and proteins into a variety of cell types. The proposed use of guide RNA, CRISPR/Cas9, DNA, mRNA, cells and lentivirus indicate that this work should be classified as Non-Exempt, BSL-2, Section III-D-3. The Committee found that the facilities, procedures, practices, training, and expertise of personnel described in this protocol are appropriate for the proposed work. The PI has identified the potential risks involved with this research and has included plans to mitigate such risks that are suitable for the research described. The Committee had no major safety concerns with this protocol.

Motion: Approve protocol as written.

Approve: Eight **Disapprove: None** **Abstain: None**

6. **Other Business (continued)**

New NIH Biosafety Policy

The Committee discussed proposed changes to federal biosafety oversight requirements and reviewed a comparison of the current and proposed policies. Topics included expanded committee oversight responsibilities, revised reporting requirements for incidents, delegated review processes, and potential gaps in coverage under the proposed framework. Committee members discussed the opportunity to provide public comments on the proposed changes and encouraged engagement from the research community. The Committee agreed to share information about the proposed policy revisions with affected researchers and encourage submission of comments during the public feedback period.

The Committee discussed a potential compliance concern identified during routine oversight activities. Additional information is being gathered, and the matter will be reviewed further at a future meeting, if warranted.

Adjourned: 10:54 am

Next meeting November 5, 2026