Georgia Institute of Technology
Institutional Biosafety Committee
Meeting Minutes
April 9, 2026
10:00 AM

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

Voting Members Absent:
S-BME
S-BIOL
K-NAM

Non-voting Attendees:
KS-ORIA
P-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 10:01 am.**

2. **Approval of March 5, 2026, Minutes**
The March IBC minutes were sent to committee review. No modifications were requested.

Motion: Approve the minutes as written.
Approve: Four **Disapprove: none** **Abstain: Three**

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

TEMENOFF-R100043 (Renewal)
Title: Genetically-modified mesenchymal stem cells for reducing the progression of inflammation
Funding: Discretionary
Category: Non-Exempt, BSL-2, Section III-D-1-a
Discussion Leaders: A-ME, K-EHS

The Committee and BSO reviewed this renewal submission and evaluated the risk assessment and proposed biocontainment plan. The goal of the proposed work is to enhance cell secretion of transduced factors by mesenchymal stem cells (MSCs) to further improve their ability to reduce the progression of degenerative diseases such as osteoarthritis (OA) or muscle degeneration. The proposed use of inhibitors, muscle pro-healing proteins, pro-regenerative chemokine proteins, pro-healing signaling proteins and marker proteins indicates that this work should be classified as Non-Exempt, BSL-2, Section III-D-1-a. 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 requested that the PI confirm the selected citation and clarify whether animals will be involved in the research. Also, the PI should include the ABSL, if applicable.

Motion: Return the protocol to the PI to clarify details, then reassign to the discussion leaders for review.
Approve: Seven **Disapprove: none** **Abstain: none**

CHEUNG-R100300
Title: Phase separation behaviors for sustainable agriculture
Funding: Discretionary
Category: Non-Exempt, Section III-D-5
Discussion Leaders: D-NAM, KA-ORIA

The Committee and BSO reviewed this protocol submission and evaluated the risk assessment and proposed biocontainment plan. The goal of the proposed work is to understand and engineer liquid-liquid phase-separation (LLPS) behaviors to enhance cellular functions in plants and their associated microbes. The proposed use of protein markers, protein tags and enzymes indicates that this work should be classified as Non-Exempt, Section III-D-5. 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 discussed the protocol and had no concerns.
Motion: Approve the protocol.
Approve: Seven **Disapprove: none** **Abstain: none**

GARCIA-R100009 (Renewal)
Title: Mechanobiology of adhesion receptors
Funding: NIH, Discretionary
Category: Non-Exempt, BSL-2, ABSL-1, Section III-D-1-a
Discussion Leaders: K-BIOL, T-ORIA

The Committee and BSO reviewed this renewal submission and evaluated the risk assessment and proposed biocontainment plan. The goal of the proposed work is to examine the role of cell adhesion receptors (e.g., integrins) and associated focal adhesion and cytoskeletal proteins and reporters for transcription factors on cell adhesive responses in the context of mechanotransduction and biomaterials. The proposed use of marker proteins, FRET components, vinculin tension sensor components, Post-transcriptional gene silencing materials, adhesion receptors, focal adhesion cytoskeletal proteins and focal adhesion signaling proteins indicates that this work should be classified as Non-Exempt, BSL-2, ABSL-1, Section III-D-1-a. The Committee found that the facilities, procedures, practices, training, and expertise of personnel described on 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 discussed the protocol and had no concerns.

Motion: Approve the protocol.
Approve: Six **Disapprove: none** **Abstain: none**

4. **Items not requiring committee discussion or review**
The Committee has been provided with a list of protocols, amendments, and renewals to IBC registrations which were approved at or since the last Biosafety Committee meeting (including items

exempt from the *NIH Guidelines*). The Committee was also provided with a list of registrations which were withdrawn, expired, or closed since the last Biosafety Committee meeting.

5. Other business

1. Change in Committee Members
    a. M-ORIA is preparing to step down from the committee and KA-ORIA joined as a voting member.
2. Risk Assessment Discussion
    a. The discussion led with a presentation on the role of the Biological Risk Assessment form in IBC protocol review and its requirement based on institutional policy and NIH Guidelines. The Committee discussed the Assessment form and how it relates to IBC protocol review based on institutional policy and NIH Guidelines. After a brief discussion, the IBC opted to have ORIA meet with EH&S to discuss how to best capture the required information.

Next meeting May 14, 2026