

Research Ethics Committee (REC): Biological and Environmental Safety (REC: BES) Meeting Minutes  
02 October 2025

Venue: MS TEAMS Conference Call

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**WELCOME:** Dr D Rip and Mr WA Beukes

**PRESENT:** Dr NJD Verhoog, Dr D Rip, Prof SMJ Hemmings, Prof M Van de Vyver, Prof V Mavumengwana, Dr S Groenewald, Mrs N Sunday, Mrs FM October, Mrs J De Kock, Mr WA Beukes, Miss K Naicker, Mrs B Thompson-Graham

**APOLOGIES:** Prof SL Sampson, Prof K Storbeck, Dr JH Groenewald, Prof C De Beer, Prof WJ Goosen

**REVIEW OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:** 14 August 2025 - Approved

### GENERAL MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

1. **First Aid Kits and their Accessibility** – Prof SL Sampson. Prof Sampson noted that there was an environment using combination locks on their first aid kits. This was flagged by the REC: BES as a risk given that it was not easily accessible in case of an emergency. The locks have since been replaced by colourful cable ties as an alternative and the environment is working closely with the Occupational Health and Safety team at the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences.
2. **New REC: BES Member** – Prof SL Sampson. Prof Sampson welcomed Ms S Matukane as the newest REC: BES member on behalf of the committee. Ms Matukane will officially join the REC: BES activities from 01 January 2026.
3. **Welcome of Prof V Mavumengwana** – Prof SL Sampson. Prof Sampson welcomed Prof Vuyo Mavumengwana back to the REC: BES committee after a brief period of leave from REC activities.
4. **Welcome of Miss Kimera Naicker** – Prof SL Sampson. Prof Sampson, on behalf of the REC: BES, welcomed Miss Kimera Naicker, the new permit compliance officer working in the Office for Research Integrity and Ethics.
5. **SU-SAMRC projects** – The committee noted that a number of research applications involved work conducted in collaboration with external partner organisations. The committee considered the appropriate oversight arrangements for such projects and confirmed that the required ethics

review processes apply where relevant. Engagement with partner organisations is ongoing to clarify governance responsibilities and ensure appropriate review mechanisms are in place. Further feedback will be provided once these discussions have concluded.

6. **Students listed as PI** – It was highlighted that in many of the applications, students are listing themselves as the PI. It was noted that going forward the forms will be adapted to ensure that PIs are aware that only SU-employed researchers, supervisors, staff, etc., should be listed as PI.

**GENERAL MATTERS:**

7. **SU-SAMRC projects**– The committee noted that ongoing efforts are underway to review and strengthen existing arrangements for collaborative research. This includes ensuring that appropriate governance structures are in place and that research activities are conducted in line with applicable standards. Updates will be provided to the committee once these processes have been concluded.

Application Number	Department	Project Title and Description	1 <sup>st</sup> Reviewer	2 <sup>nd</sup> Reviewer
1. BES-2025-33848	Microbiology	<p><u>Discovery of Novel Antifungals from Natural Environments (DONE)</u></p> <p><a href="#">New Application Form</a></p> <p><b>Review outcome: Modifications Required</b></p>		
2. BES-2025-34423	Biomedical Science	<p><u>Investigating the role of eosinophils in tuberculosis granulomas and their potential as targets for host-directed therapies</u></p> <p><a href="#">New Application Form</a></p> <p><b>Review outcome: Modifications Required</b></p>		
3. BES-2025-34522	Biomedical Science	<p><u>Understanding Mediators of TB associated-lung pathological damage to aid designing host-directed therapies.</u></p> <p><a href="#">New Application Form</a></p> <p><b>Review outcome: Modifications Required</b></p>		
4. BES-2025-34165	Microbiology	<p><u>Development and testing of online effect-based biosensors.</u></p> <p><a href="#">New Application Form</a></p> <p><b>Review outcome: Approved with Stipulations</b></p>		
5. BES-2025-33892	Biomedical Science	<p><u>Seminal Prostate Specific Antigen(PSA) in healthy men: Investigating the association between PSA levels and sperm parameters.</u></p> <p><a href="#">New Application Form</a></p>		

		<b>Review outcome: Modifications Required</b>		
6. BES-2025-33359	Microbiology	<u>Biosafety for Giardia project</u>  <a href="#">New Application Form</a>  <b>Review outcome: Modifications Required</b>		
7. BES-2025-34614	Biomedical Science	<u>Genetic modification of <i>Trypanosoma brucei</i> for RNAi inducible loss of function screening.</u>  <a href="#">New Application Form</a>  <b>Review outcome: Modifications Required</b>		
8. BES-2025-34505	Paediatrics and Child Health	<u>SU DTTC biobank</u>  <a href="#">Facility Registration Form</a>  <b>Review outcome: Modifications Required</b>		
9. BES-2025-9466	Microbiology	<u>Biosurfactants for the prevention and reduction of biofouling</u>  <a href="#">Amendment Form</a>  <b>Review outcome: Reject</b>		
10. BES-2025-28523	Business Management	<u>BMRI Biorepository BSL2 Application</u>  <a href="#">Amendment Form</a>  <b>Review outcome: Approved with Stipulations</b>		
11. BES-2025-32437	General Internal Medicine	<u>Medicines Research Labs: Experimental Medicine.</u>  <a href="#">Amendment Form</a>		

		<b>Review outcome: Approved</b>		
12. BES- 2025- 32836	Biomedical Science	<u>Opportunistic surveillance of multispecies diseases, with a focus on animal tuberculosis.</u>  <a href="#">Amendment Form</a>  <b>Review outcome: Approved</b>		
13. BES- 2025- 30228	Biomedical Science	<u>EXHALE-4</u>  <a href="#">Final Report Form</a>  <b>Review outcome: Approved</b>		
14. BES- 2025- 22531	Biomedical Science	<u>Identification and characterization of Non-tuberculosis <i>mycobacteria</i> (NTM) and their role in modulating macrophage immune response to other lung pathogens.</u>  <a href="#">Progress Report Form</a>  <b>Review outcome: Approved</b>		
15. BES- 2025- 26513	Microbiology	<u>Expression of commercially important genes in fungi</u>  <a href="#">Progress Report Form</a>  <b>Review outcome: Modifications Required</b>		
16. BES- 2025- 30573	Biomedical Science	<u>An RNA-based phenotypic assay for the diagnosis of antibiotic resistance in <i>Mtb</i></u>  <a href="#">Progress Report Form</a>  <b>Review outcome: Approved</b>		

17. BES- 2025- 19360	Biomedical Science	<u>POI-HI-IMPACTB</u>  <b>Progress Report Form</b>  <b>Review outcome: Rejected</b>		
18. BES- 2025- 32783	Biomedical Science	<u>Evolution, biology and host-pathogen interactions of mycobacteria 2025.</u>  <b>Adverse Event Form</b>  <b>Review outcome: Accepted</b>		
19. BES- 2025- 25558	Biomedical Science	<u>REC BES: Targeted Sequencing to Enhance, Live, and Optimize Treatment of Drugresistant Tuberculosis - A Pragmatic, Implementation Evaluation</u>  <b>Adverse Event Form</b>  <b>Review outcome: Modifications Required</b>		
20. BES- 2025- 32469	Physiological Science	<u>Biocode Technologies (LaunchLab Laboratory Facility)</u>  <b>New Application Form</b>  <b>Review outcome: Approved</b>		
21. BES- 2025- 26446	Biomedical Science	<u>T cells in the placenta from women living with Human Immunodeficiency Virus-1</u>  <b>New Application Form</b>  <b>Review outcome: Approved</b>		
22. BES- 2025- 30533	Biomedical Science	<u>RECBES Induction of myeloid suppressor cells in C57BL/6 mice by mycobacterial vaccines.</u>		

		<b>New Application Form</b>  <b>Review outcome: Approved</b>		
23. BES- 2025- 28523	Business Management	<u>BMRI Biorepository BSL2 Application</u>  <b>Amendment Form</b>  <b>Review outcome: Approved</b>		
24. BES- 2025- 23928	Medical Physiology	<u>Division of Medical Physiology</u>  <b>Amendment Form</b>  <b>Review outcome: Approved</b>		
25. BES- 2025- 16762	Physiological Science	<u>Circulated inflammatory biomarkers in Covid- 19</u>  <b>Final Report Form</b>  <b>Review outcome: Approved</b>		

**End**