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Research Ethics Committee (REC): Biological and Environmental Safety (REC: BES) Meeting Minutes  
14 August 2025

Venue: MS TEAMS Conference Call

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**WELCOME:** Prof SL Sampson

PRESENT: Prof SL Sampson, Mrs J De Kock, Dr S Groenewald, Dr D Rip, Mrs N Sunday, Mr FM October, Dr JH Groenewald, Mrs B Thompson-Graham, Prof K Storbeck, Dr NJD Verhoog, Prof SMJ Hemmings, Prof M Van de Vyver, Prof C De Beer

**APOLOGIES:** Prof WJ Goosen, Mr WA Beukes

**REVIEW OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES: 22 May 2025 - approved**

**GENERAL MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING:**

1. Congratulations to committee member on their inaugural lecture

**GENERAL MATTERS:**

2. First Aid Kits and their Accessibility

3. New REC: BES Member

Application Number	Department	Project Title and Description	1 <sup>st</sup> Reviewer Redacted	2 <sup>nd</sup> Reviewer Redacted
1. BES-2025-33795	Biomedical Sciences	<p><u>Peripheral blood cytokine profiles of tobacco smokers and drug users compared to non-smokers at tuberculosis diagnosis and end of treatment.</u></p> <p><a href="#">New Application Form</a></p> <p><b>Review outcome: Modifications Required</b></p>		
2. BES-2025-33719	Medical Physiology	<p><u>Development and characterisation of human corneal epithelial spheroids as a platform for disease modelling and drug screening; REC:BES</u></p> <p><a href="#">New Application Form</a></p> <p><b>Review outcome: Deferred</b></p>		
3. BES-2025-34135	Food Science	<p><u>Biocontrol of <i>Listeria monocytogenes</i> in leafy green hydroponic systems</u></p> <p><a href="#">New Application Form</a></p> <p><b>Review outcome: Approved with Stipulations</b></p>		
4. BES-2025-30368	Biomedical Sciences	<p><u>CRISPR interference-aided discovery of anti-tubercular drugs from South African medicinal plants.</u></p> <p><a href="#">New Application Form</a></p> <p><b>Review outcome: Modifications Required</b></p>		
5. BES-2025-33665	Biomedical Science	<p><u>Evaluation of Host Protein Biomarkers for the Diagnosis of Extrapulmonary Tuberculosis</u></p> <p><a href="#">New Application Form</a></p> <p><b>Review outcome: Deferred</b></p>		
6. BES-2025-33021	Medicine	<p><u>Bilirubin-Binding Assay Development for Cabotegravir in Neonates</u></p> <p><a href="#">New Application Form</a></p> <p><b>Review outcome: Approved with Stipulations</b></p>		
7. BES-2025-33454	Food Science	<p><u>Investigating the prevalence, genetic diversity, and antimicrobial resistance of <i>Listeria</i> species in dairy products from South Africa</u></p> <p><a href="#">New Application Form</a></p> <p><b>Review outcome: Approved with Stipulations</b></p>		

8. BES-2025-33452	Food Science	<p><u>Detection of Listeria monocytogenes and Pseudomonas spp. in a RTE food factory using metagenomics: A precision approach to food safety</u></p> <p><a href="#">New Application Form</a></p> <p><b>Review outcome: Approved with Stipulations</b></p>		
9. BES-2025-34195	Medical Virology	<p><u>Investigating agnostic metagenomic virus discovery tools in human patient samples as well as small mammal samples</u></p> <p><a href="#">New Application Form</a></p> <p><b>Review outcome: Modifications Required</b></p>		
10. BES-2025-34157	Medicine	<p><u>Evaluating trace amine dysregulation as therapeutic target in systemic lupus erythematosus - REC: BES</u></p> <p><a href="#">New Application Form</a></p> <p><b>Review outcome: Approved with Stipulations</b></p>		
11. BES-2025-33267	Medical Physiology	<p><u>Investigating the role of novel sulfonamide derivatives on beige-like adipocytes and macrophage crosstalk</u></p> <p><a href="#">New Application Form</a></p> <p><b>Review outcome: Modifications Required</b></p>		
12. BES-2025-33988	Electrical and Electronic Engineering	<p><u>Proof of concept study – Comparing microclot parameters from controls and Long COVID patients from a single private practice in the Western Cape (REC:BES application for CERI Lab)</u></p> <p><a href="#">New Application Form</a></p> <p><b>Review outcome: Approved with Stipulations</b></p>		
13. BES-2025-30914	Physiological Science	<p><u>Histology and Microscope labs</u></p> <p><a href="#">Facility Registration Form</a></p> <p><b>Review outcome: Modifications Required</b></p>		
14. BES-2025-28868	Biochemistry	<p><u>Mammalian Tissue Culture at the Department of Biochemistry</u></p> <p><a href="#">Amendment Form</a></p> <p><b>Review outcome: Approved</b></p>		

15. BES-2025-16762	Physiological Science	<p><u>Circulated inflammatory biomarkers in Covid-19</u></p> <p><a href="#">Amendment Form</a></p> <p><b>Review outcome: Approved</b></p>		
16. BES-2025-18963	Biomedical Sciences	<p><u>Characterization of Autophagic flux in <i>Mycobacterium tuberculosis</i>-infected macrophages</u></p> <p><a href="#">Amendment Form</a></p> <p><b>Review outcome: Modifications Required</b></p>		
17. BES-2025-17043	Biomedical Sciences	<p><u>CASCADE - COVID REC:BEE</u></p> <p><a href="#">Amendment Form</a></p> <p><b>Review outcome: Approved with Stipulations</b></p>		
18. BES-2025-29426	Biomedical Sciences	<p><u>Isoniazid resistant Tuberculosis in the Western Cape, a descriptive study of clinical characteristics and outcomes.</u></p> <p><a href="#">Amendment Form</a></p> <p><b>Review outcome: Approved</b></p>		
19. BES-2025-22735	Biomedical Sciences	<p><u>REC-BES: Investigation of ancestry-specific TB susceptibility in southern African populations</u></p> <p><a href="#">Amendment Form</a></p> <p><b>Review outcome: Approved</b></p>		
20. BES-2025-28480	Food Science	<p><u>Incidence and antibiotic resistance profiles of <i>Clostridioides difficile</i> in farm environments, food-producing animals, and wild game of South Africa</u></p> <p><a href="#">Progress Report Form</a></p> <p><b>Review outcome: Approved with stipulations</b></p>		
21. BES-2025-30741	Food Science	<p><u>Evaluation of Salmonella Enteritidis presence and survival throughout the poultry production process in free-range chickens</u></p> <p><a href="#">Progress Report Form</a></p> <p><b>Review outcome: Approved</b></p>		
22. BES-2025-30740	Food Science	<p><u>The effect of non-thermal treatments on the microbial safety, physiochemical, and functional properties of alternative protein powders</u></p> <p><a href="#">Progress Report Form</a></p> <p><b>Review outcome: Modifications Required</b></p>		

23. BES-2025-29426	Biomedical Science	<u>Isoniazid resistant Tuberculosis in the Western Cape, a descriptive study of clinical characteristics and outcomes.</u>  Progress Report Form  Review outcome: Approved		
24. BES-2025-14745	Biomedical Science	<u>Transmission of Tuberculosis Among illicit drug use Linkages</u>  Progress Report Form  Review outcome: Approved		
25. BES-2025-22185	Biomedical Science	<u>TRUST I and TRUST II</u>  Progress Report Form  Review outcome: Approved with Stipulations		
26. BES-2025-30581	General Internal Medicine	<u>Counteracting diabetes-induced adipose tissue derived stromal cell senescence</u>  Progress Report Form  Review outcome: Modifications Required		
27. BES-2025-28663	Biomedical Science	<u>ATLAS (LPS16676)</u>  Progress Report Form  Review outcome: Approved		
28. BES-2025-16762	Physiological Science	<u>Circulated inflammatory biomarkers in Covid-19</u>  Progress Report Form  Review outcome: Approved with Stipulations		
29. BES-2025-23654	Biomedical Science	<u>BES: An observational study of impact of second-line TB treatment on the microbiome and its association with pregnancy and infant outcomes.</u>  Progress Report Form  Review outcome: Approved with Stipulations		
30. BES-2025-28868	Biochemistry	<u>Mammalian Tissue Culture at the Department of Biochemistry</u>  Progress Report Form  Review outcome: Approved		

31. BES-2025-22495	Psychiatry	<u>FASD microbiome</u> <b>Progress Report Form</b>  <b>Review outcome: Approved</b>		
32. BES-2025-31748	Clinical Pharmacology	<u>Investigating Metformin's Mechanism Of Action In Weight Loss For Obese Hiv Patients On Dolutegravir Therapy</u> <b>New Application Form</b>  <b>Review outcome: Approved</b>		
33. BES-2025-32836	Biomedical Science	<u>Opportunistic surveillance of multispecies diseases, with a focus on animal tuberculosis.</u> <b>New Application Form</b>  <b>Review outcome: Approved</b>		
34. BES-2025-30840	Biomedical Science	<u>RECBES:Healthy laboratory blood donor response to M.tb</u> <b>New Application Form</b>  <b>Review outcome: Approved</b>		
35. BES-2025-32783	Biomedical Science	<u>Evolution, biology and host-pathogen interactions of mycobacteria_2025</u> <b>New Application Form</b>  <b>Review outcome: Approved</b>		
36. BES-2025-32658	Medical Physiology	<u>Validation of an AC16 cardiac ventricular model for drug discovery in an obesogenic environment</u> <b>New Application Form</b>  <b>Review outcome: Approved</b>		
37. BES-2025-32451	Biomedical Science	<u>Transcriptomic and functional profiling of B-cells in response to tuberculosis (TB) disease</u> <b>New Application Form</b>  <b>Review outcome: Approved</b>		
38. BES-2025-31982	Biomedical Science	<u>Recurrent tuberculosis (TB) in people previously treated for TB (RE-TB)</u> <b>New Application Form</b>  <b>Review outcome: Approved</b>		
39. BES-2025-24651	Clinical Anatomy	<u>Clinical Anatomy</u> <b>Facility Registration Form</b>		

		<b>Review outcome: Approved</b>		
40. BES-2025-30507	Department of Innovation and Commercialisation	<u>LaunchLab Laboratory Facility</u> <b>Facility Registration Form</b> <b>Review outcome: Approved</b>		
41. BES-2025-32558	Physiological Science	<u>BSL2 Blood lab registration 2025</u> <b>Facility Registration Form</b> <b>Review outcome: Approved</b>		
42. BES-2025-23928	Medical Physiology	<u>Division of Medical Physiology</u> <b>Amendment Form</b> <b>Review outcome: Approved</b>		
43. BES-2025-23928	Medical Physiology	<u>Division of Medical Physiology</u> <b>Amendment Form</b> <b>Review outcome: Approved</b>		
44. BES-2025-23928	Medical Physiology	<u>Division of Medical Physiology</u> <b>Amendment Form</b> <b>Review outcome: Approved</b>		
45. BES-2025-18901	Medical Microbiology	<u>Medical Microbiology BSL2 Laboratory</u> <b>Amendment Form</b> <b>Review outcome: Approved</b>		
46. BES-2025-22781	Psychiatry	<u>PP PTSD</u> <b>Amendment Form</b> <b>Review outcome: Approved</b>		
47. BES-2025-22780	Psychiatry	<u>BAT</u> <b>Amendment Form</b> <b>Review outcome: Approved</b>		
48. BES-2025-25384	Biomedical Science	<u>TB Genomics REC BES application</u> <b>Amendment Form</b> <b>Review outcome: Approved</b>		

49. BES-2025-27394	Psychiatry	<u>Neuropsychiatric Genetics (Department of Psychiatry)</u> <b>Amendment Form</b> <b>Review outcome: Approved</b>		
50. BES-2025-22183	Psychiatry	<u>Neuropsychiatric Genetics (Department of Psychiatry)</u> <b>Amendment Form</b> <b>Review outcome: Approved</b>		
51. BES-2025-29995	School of Data Science and Computational Thinking	<u>Characterizing Viruses Through Sequencing</u> <b>Progress Report Form</b> <b>Review outcome: Approved</b>		
52. BES-2025-23928	Medical Physiology	<u>Division of Medical Physiology</u> <b>Progress Report Form</b> <b>Review outcome: Approved</b>		

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