

THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER
ANIMAL WELFARE AND ETHICAL REVIEW BODY

Monday, 6th February 2017

Present:

Apologies:

Observers:

In attendance:

1. Minutes

Confirmed: The minutes of the meeting held on 19th December 2016, subject to two minor amendments

2. Matters arising

2.1 Circadian regulation of processes underlying chronic inflammation

To report: In correspondence subsequent to the previous meeting, it was unanimously agreed that the project was clearly justified and worthwhile, that the method of euthanasia would be carried out by a competent person and was humane. The majority also agreed that the NTS should describe it as "the appropriate and approved humane method of euthanasia." The applicant also submitted a revised NTS with amendments as requested by AWERB and the project had therefore been given ethical approval.

2.2 Modulating inflammation in the GI Tract

To report: That two AWERB members had met the applicant and agreed a modified text for the NTS. The project had therefore been given ethical approval.

2.3 AWERB Issues and Initiatives for 2017

Received: A report by the Chair on the issues and initiatives that needed to be taken up in 2017. This included:

- A review of compliance with the Home office Guidance (2014) on the Operation of ASPA with respect to AWERBs
- A review of the implementation plan/actions arising from the Review of Biological Services
- Contributing, with high level support, to a programme of work to promote further 3Rs within the University.

- Assist with the integration of the NC3Rs ambassador/Regional Programme manager into the University. Kamar Ameen-Ali would join AWERB as an Observer, effective from the next meeting.
- Appoint a Vice-Chair of AWERB.
- Develop a procedure for the appointment of AWERB members.
- Review the processes for the review of project licence applications and consider the appointment of designated AWERB members for the review of project licence applications.
- Review the sign-off process for applications.
- Review the administrative processes.
- Provision by AWERB of a 'Forum for Discussion'
- Launch of the North West hub with an inaugural meeting on 22 June 2017.

The Chair undertook to circulate a paper on these issues and proposed that a small working party should, in due course, discuss the details.

3. Report on licences processed 12.12.16 to 24.01.17

Reported: (a) That the following amendments to project licences had been approved by the executive group:

70/8432 The long-term effects of prenatal hypoxia in cardiomyocyte function

70/8127 Immunoregulation during parasitic Helminth infection.

70/8550 Establishment of animal models of neurodevelopmental disorders

70/8918 Understanding vision and developing therapies for blindness.

(b) Amendments to 70/8858, *Generation, breeding and maintenance of genetically altered animals:*

To produce a synasin K689R mouse model using CRISPR

To produce an Nos3Y656 Mut KI mouse model using CRISPR.

(c) That for Personal Licences there were 8 new licences, 1 amendment, 5 surrendered and 0 renewed.

4. Application for new Project Licence

4.1 Evaluation of Cognitive Function in Animal Models

Considered: A completed AWERB1 form, with written comments by the NVS, NACWO and NTCO, and NTS.

Interviewed: The applicant

Noted: (a) That the applicant worked collaboratively with other groups in the development of drugs for cognitive disorders.

(b) That the research group use the technique of re-using animals. This allowed the administration of a drug and its testing, followed by a

seven day 'wash-out' before the animal is used for another test. This reduced the number of animals used significantly. Each time an animal was ready for re-use, the NVS examined it before it was allowed to be used. This had permitted the BSF to build up a body of useful information.

- (c) In answer to questions about the validity of translating results gained from the experiments on rodents to understanding human cognitive disorders and behaviour, the applicant explained that they were not trying to copy human behaviour in rodents but replicate the physiological disturbances which led to mental disorders in humans.
- (d) The applicant stated that she was firmly committed to the publication of negative results and, although pharmaceutical funders had the right to delay the publication of results and data for commercial reasons, she had not met opposition to the publication of negative results. Members were satisfied that the applicant was fully committed to University policy in this respect.
- (e) Concern was expressed about the list of 'worst case' endpoints as they reflected conditions that were severe rather than moderate. It was felt that the list should record the thresholds when action would be taken rather than extreme cases and should reflect the moderate banding.
- (f) One member felt that the second paragraph of the 'Replacement' section of the NTS could be shortened by removing irrelevant information.

Agreed: That the project be recommended for ethical approval, subject to:

- (1) Making clear that the experiments were not a model for human disease, but mimicked the physiology of human cognitive disorders.
- (2) Modifying Table 4: humane endpoints to show the thresholds that would trigger action.
- (3) Revising the 'replacement' section of the NTS to the satisfaction of the Chairman.

4.2 Postnatal Light Effects on Circadian Function

Considered: A completed AWERB1 form, with written comments by the NVS, NACWO and NTCO, and NTS.

Interviewed: The applicant

Noted: (a) That, in the applicant's experience, a mouse 'despaired' and floated rather than tried swimming after 2 minutes in the water, whereas the standard test was 6 minutes. The applicant felt there was no point in continuing once the mouse had given up swimming.

- (b) One member felt that the swimming test should be in the moderate rather than mild band. It was confirmed that the Home Office licence application

described it as 'moderate'. The applicant stated that a willingness to look at other ways of testing 'mood'.

(c) Concern was raised that the link between the effects of exposure to constant light in mice and the exposure of premature human babies to constant light was tenuous. The applicant explained that there was evidence that exposure to constant light did have a psychological effect on premature babies just as a difference in humans born in the Winter and those in the Summer had been reported.

(d) The applicant assured AWERB that the method of culling by decapitation was necessary and done humanely.

Resolved: That the project be recommended for ethical approval.

4.3 *Understanding Inflammasome Dependent Inflammation*

Considered: A completed AWERB1 form, with written comments by the NVS, NACWO and NTCO, and NTS.

Interviewed: The applicant

Noted:

- (a) That the project application reflected on-going research .
- (b) That concern was expressed that the AWERB form lacked any discussion of the science of the project.
- (c) The applicant explained that an air pouch was created in the back of the animal and then the agent injected into the pouch. In a subsequent email to the Secretary, the applicant explained that for the creation of the pouch 5mls of sterile air was injected but any further injection of substances was administered a week later and limited to 0.5 to 1ml.
- (d) That a number of questions posed by AWERB members, particularly relating to the science of the project, would have been answered if they had seen the full Home Office application.

Agreed: That the Chairman would circulate a copy of the Home Office application to members present at the meeting and ask for comments and recommendation for approval, or other action, to be returned to him within one week of receipt.

5. Paper on refinement to animal models of rheumatoid arthritis

The Home Office Inspector drew attention to an article entitled, 'Applying refinement to the use of mice and rats in rheumatoid arthritis research,' in *Inflammopharmacology*, 2015, 23: 131-150,

Agreed: That this should be circulated to AWERB members and discussed at the next meeting.

6. Report on RSPCA Lay members' Conference

One lay member reported on the RSPCA Conference which had taken place in December 2016. He drew attention to the following:

- The development of an induction pack for new lay members.
- The role of the Animals in Science Committee in advising the Secretary of State.
- The importance of the new AWERB hubs

Agreed: To circulate the papers forwarded by the member.

7. Appointment of statistician

Noted: That the current statistician's contract as AWERB's Statistical Advisor ended in April and discussions were in hand for alternative arrangements.

8. Procedure at AWERB meetings

Agreed: The following procedure for the consideration of applications for new project licences at AWERB meetings:

- The NVS to introduce the application and draw attention to significant issues.
- Members to outline their comments/concerns
- Interview applicant. They will be invited to explain the project and what they want to achieve and members will question them
- The applicant leaves and AWERB discusses the applications and makes its recommendations.
- After the meeting the Secretary will, in liaison with the Chair, summarise the comments and recommendations of AWERB on the AWERB1 form and write to the applicant.
- The applicant will submit any revisions to the Secretary and, if the Chair agrees that these satisfy the points raised by AWERB, the application is signed off by the Establishment Licence Holder.