

THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER
ANIMAL WELFARE AND ETHICAL REVIEW BODY

Tuesday, 11th April 2017

Present:

Apologies:

Observers:

In attendance:

1. Minutes

Confirmed: The minutes of the meeting held on 6th February 2017, subject to adding “be” in line 2 of *actum* 45. (f).

2. Matters arising

2.1 Evaluation of Cognitive Function in Animal Models

To report: That the applicant had made the amendments requested by the Body to the satisfaction of the Chair and project had been given ethical approval.

2.2 Understanding Inflammasome Dependent Inflammation

To report: That the draft Home Office licence had been circulated to members and it was agreed that details on this form and the amended NTS met the concerns raised by the Body. The project had therefore been given ethical approval.

3. Report on licences processed 25.01.16 to 17.03.17

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

70/7763 Engineering synthetic vectors for various gene therapy applications

40/3625 Gene function in cardiovascular disease.

70/7992 Inflammation and arterial disease

P2BC7D240 Characterization of novel antimicrobial agents.

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

To generate an Orai1-SS-Chimeric mouse model using CRIPR

To generate a Rac1bKO mouse model using CRSP

To produce an Nr1dt-Halo Tag mouse using CRIPR
To produce an Nr3C1-Halo tag (GR-Halo KI mouse model using CRISPR.

(c) Amendments to 40/3619, *Creation, breeding and maintenance of genetically altered rodents*:

To produce a Cre-Inducible ^{R625C}SF3B1 (MOC) mouse using CRISPR

(d) That for Personal Licences there were 13 new licences, 1 amendment, 10 surrendered and 0 renewed.

4. Application for new Education licence

Advanced Education in Pharmacology

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

Interviewed: The applicant

Noted: That the following comments were made by members:

- (a) That the approach needed to be more contemporary, with the 3Rs embedded, and reduction in the need to stress the animals.
- (b) Consideration should be given to phasing out the use of amphetamine.
- (c) There was a need to bring in the problems of experimental design (bias, randomisation)

In response it was stated:

- There had been a considerable reduction in the number of animals required to be used in the course.
- A prerequisite of the course was to pass the 2nd year course which included the 3Rs and alternative research models and replacement techniques.
- Statistical training was provided separately.

Resolved: To recommend approval of the new education licence application, subject to further consideration of the following:

- There should be a clearer explanation of how the importance of the 3Rs will be incorporated into all aspects of the course .
- There needs to be more information on how training in statistics and experimental design, especially in terms of practical considerations, such as bias and randomisation, will be incorporated into the course.

- The use of amphetamine was questioned and this is something that might be considered in the future development of the course.

5. Applications for new Research Project Licences

5.1 *Glucocorticoids & Stress in the Development of Diabetes & Obesity*

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

Interviewed: The applicant

Noted: That the application replaced a previous 5 year licence on which good progress had been made. A peer review had been provided and the welfare team indicated that they had no concerns.

Resolved: To recommend approval, subject to the following concerns being addressed to the satisfaction of the Chairman:

- It was noted that the Home Office licence application designated the use of stressors as moderate severity, whereas the AWERB1 form described them as mild; this section of the AWERB1 form therefore needs to be modified.
- The committee would like more added on the publication policy which you outlined to the meeting.
- AWERB would like clarification on the maximum duration of the experiments and on the procedures when it is longer than five days.
- In the sections on possible adverse effects could you please put a numerical value on 'Occasional', 'Rare' and 'Uncommon'.

5.2 *New Therapeutic Approaches for Inflammatory Disorders*

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

Interviewed: The applicant

Noted: That the following observations and comments were made by members:

- (a) That since the form had been submitted the Home Office licence application had been amended at the request of the Home office Inspector. None of these changes altered the overall purpose of the project but there might be consequential amendments to the AWERB application.
- (b) That as Epistem projects were commercially sponsored it was important to seek assurances about the publication of results, particularly negative ones.
- (c) Clarification was needed about the number of animals to be used, as the form gave only an overall number, not a species break down.

(d) There was concern about the justification for withholding analgesics from some procedures and reference was made to a recent article on this issue.

Resolved: To recommend approval of the application, subject to the Chair's confirmation of a satisfactory response to the following questions or issues:

- The text of the application, including the NTS, needs to be reviewed, probably with a colleague who is not so familiar with your work, so the application was easier to read. The Committee is keen that data and information on negative results is made as widely available as possible and therefore would like the inclusion of a statement on how you will try to fulfil this.
- Concern was expressed about the withholding of analgesics. AWERB would like to refer you to an article, 'Applying refinement to the use of mice and rats in rheumatoid arthritis research,' in *Inflammopharmacology*, 2015, 23: 131-150, and incorporate the thinking in this article to your application.
- On page 1 of the application it says that 5000 rats and mice will be used but you need to specify how many of each species.
- In the NTS the section on key words has not been completed.

5.3 Gene Function in Cardiovascular Disease

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

Interviewed: The applicant

Noted: That the following observations and comments were made by members:

- That this was on-going work that had been peer reviewed and that the applicant had a wide range of collaborators.

Resolved: To recommend approval of the application, subject to the Chair's confirmation of a satisfactory response to the following questions and issues:

- In answer to a question you stated that your practice was to make raw data more widely available and to publish negative results. AWERB would like you to add some text to this effect.
- Concern was expressed about the unpredictability of sudden death cases. AWERB thought it would be helpful to include a monitoring regime which attempted to monitor and record any indications that characterised animals which subsequently died suddenly.
- It was stated that surgery was performed in the morning and not on Friday in order to maximise the time for post-operative close monitoring. This ought to be added to the application.
- Can you state how frequently studies are repeated?

6. Application for Category B approval (papers circulated on 04/04/17)

Revision total hip arthroplasty implant removal testing

Received: A Category B applications for work to be undertaken outside the UK.

Interviewed The applicant

Agreed: That AWERB was unable to come to a conclusion about the acceptability of the proposal without further information. In the circumstances the decision was reached to defer further consideration of the proposal until the next meeting on June 6th in the hope that by then you will have had opportunity to gather the other details we require in order for us to have an informed discussion and reach a decision.

The issues that AWERB would like clarified were as follows:

- What is the purpose of this research, for what reason is it being undertaken, and is it anticipated that the results will be used as part of a clinical trial application?
- Is the sample size sufficient for your needs?
- Is it not possible to conduct these investigations at the University of Manchester, or at least elsewhere in the UK?
- If the specialist skills of the surgeon in Mexico are required would it be possible for that surgeon to undertake the investigations at this University or elsewhere in the UK?
- If your view is that the investigations have to take place in Mexico, please could you supply the following:
 - An SOP relating to pre-surgery preparation, the surgery itself, and post-surgery care. This should include information on anaesthesia, and analgesia and pain management.
 - Dimensions of pig pens, material they are made from, temperature and humidity within the unit, lighting regimes (how long are the light and dark cycles) environmental enrichment/bedding/food access to water, number of times per day the pigs would be checked including weekends. Relevant photographs would be helpful.
 - It would be very helpful if you could supply photographs of the facilities in Mexico that will be used including the pig pens and the operating theatre.
 - Will any environmental enrichment for the animals be provided, and if not why not?