

ANIMAL WELFARE AND ETHICAL REVIEW BODY

Minutes of the meeting held on 12 March 2020

Present:

[REDACTED]

Apologies:

[REDACTED]

1. Minutes

Agreed: That the minutes of the meeting held on 23 January 2020 were approved.

2. Applications for New Project Licences

2.1. [REDACTED], Type 2 Immunity in Infection & Maintenance of Tissue Health

Considered: A completed AWERB form, PPL application, and minutes from Local Management Committee Meeting

Interviewed: [REDACTED]

Discussed: The Committee discussed in general that the way the Non-Technical Summaries (NTS) are created in the new ASPeL system encourages researchers to write in too much detail. In order to help researchers write the NTS the lay members of the committee will meet with applicants earlier in the Project Licence application process.

Action: AWERB Secretary to include a step in the application process for the lay member meeting with the applicant.

Revisions:

- Please discuss severity limits with the BSF staff and update any sections of the ASPeL application and AWERB form. It was felt that

some clarity was needed regarding severity limits as you stated in parts that no animal would suffer more than mild severity, but the Severity banding was moderate (e.g. Protocols 2 and 3). You discussed that the Home Office advise moderate for the protocol where pups are taken away from their mothers; please include this in the application.

- Following your pre-AWERB discussions with the BSF staff, please make sure that gerbils are only mentioned in the protocols requiring use of gerbils (Protocol 3); there may still be some reference to gerbils in Protocol 2.
- There may be a mismatch in the number of animals stated on your AWERB form and those listed in the ASPeL form. Since the AWERB form goes to the Establishment Licence Holder for approval please ensure the information on this is correct.
- Overall the committee felt the Non-Technical Summary was very well written although there is some room for improvement. Please contact the following committee members to arrange for their assistance with updating the NTS:

[REDACTED]

Outcome: The study was given provisional approval based on the applicant making the changes/clarifications listed above to the satisfaction of the Chair/AWERB.

2.2. [REDACTED], Development & Refinement of Small Animal Imaging

Considered: A completed AWERB form, PPL application, and minutes from Local Management Committee Meeting

Interviewed: [REDACTED]

Discussed: The Committee discussed that some changes which were recommended at the pre-AWERB meeting had not been made before the application was submitted to the full AWERB meeting.

Action: The AWERB Secretary will add a step into the application process that explains that recommendations made at the pre-AWERB meeting must be made before the application is submitted to a full AWERB meeting. In order to support applicants minutes from the pre-AWERB meeting should be shared with the applicant.

- Revisions:*
- Please work with the BSF staff to ensure that humane end points are clear.
 - For Protocol 2 you list a “weight loss greater than 15% over 72 hours” as a humane end point – please clarify if this is to account for steady weight gain with tumour growth.
 - Please ensure that when discussing weight loss, e.g. in Protocol 2, it is clear that when animals reach 20% weight loss they will be humanely killed.

- The committee would like the title of the project to be changed to reflect that tumour models will be focused on.
- Please include more information on why only female animals are used.
- Please can you update the numbers on the AWERB form. This form goes to the Establishment Licence Holder for final sign off and therefore needs to accurately reflect what is in the licence.
- The flow chart on page 8 of your licence under Objective 3 refers to Protocol 3; please update this to only include the 2 protocols you are using.
- Please contact the following members of the committee for advice on the Non-Technical Summary:
 - [REDACTED]
- Please also discuss with the NC3Rs Programme Manager the following:
 - Dissemination of findings
 - Chick embryo model
 - Group numbers and experimental design – some committee members raised concerns over the use of control animals and having only 2 animals in a study, although they appreciate the studies are pilots. Some clarity in the application is required.
- On page 34 of the licence application there is a typographical error relating to warming over 400C. Please correct to 40C as you mentioned in your presentation.
- On page 17 of the licence application please include additional details about the attachment or implantation of stimulatory recording devices and the impact this would have to the time under anaesthesia.

Outcome: The study was given provisional approval based on the applicant making the changes/clarifications listed above to the satisfaction of the Chair/AWERB.

3. Report on licences processed from 13/01/2020 to 27/02/2020

The following amendments were approved by the executive committee.

3.1. Amendments to Project Licences

[REDACTED] The Role of Circadian Clocks in Immunity.
 [REDACTED] Understanding Inflammasome Dependent Inflammation
 [REDACTED] Evaluation of Cognitive Function in Animal Models.
 [REDACTED] Preclinical Evaluation of Cancer Therapeutics
 [REDACTED] Radiolabelled Molecules for Cancer Imaging & Therapy

4. Update on applications outstanding from previous meetings

4.1. [REDACTED], **Melanoma Formation, Immune Responses & Evaluating Novel Therapeutic Approaches & Agents**

To report: Granted

4.2. [REDACTED], **Mechanistic Insight Into Assessment of Novel Therapies for Preeclampsia & Fetal Growth Restriction.**

To report: Granted

4.3. [REDACTED], **Breeding & Maintenance of Genetically Altered Zebrafish..**

To report: Numbers of animals required on the licence is still to be finalised. Once finalised the application will be submitted to the Home Office.

4.4. [REDACTED], **Defining Critical Regulatory Pathways Controlling Local & Distal Immune Responses During Health & Inflammation of Barrier Surfaces.**

To report: Submitted to the Home Office.

4.5. [REDACTED], **Mechanisms of Diabetes-Associated Heart.**

To report: An additional meeting between the applicant and the Home Office is taking place due to some changes the applicant wanted to make to the diabetes model. Applicant will need to attend another AWERB meeting and have the licence reviewed by the full AWERB committee.

5. Standard Condition 18s

- A list of Standard Condition 18s covering the period 10 January 2020 – 4 March 2020 was provided to Committee.
- The committee members would like the full reports submitting at subsequent meetings.
- If there are any actions required by the Home Office following submission of a Standard Condition 18 report to them, this will be reported back to AWERB members.

6. NACWO report

6.1. **Schedule 1 rooms**

Users of the S1 room in AV Hill are on a warning regarding the condition the room is being left in after use. The Deputy Director of the BSF will report next time on if users have started to use the room appropriately. If users have not started to clean up after themselves etc, the BSF will remove the use of the room as S1.

6.2. **New Home Office Inspector**

A new Home Office Inspector is starting to replace [REDACTED].

6.3. **Understanding Animal Research award**

The University has received an award regarding it's openness in animal research. The University of Manchester is one of 13 organisations to become a 'Leader in Openness

2019-22' in recognition of its commitment to the UK's Concordat on Openness on Animal Research.

6.4. Openness activities

On 12 and 13 March the Biodiscovery Festival took place. The BSF hosted a stand which was visited by around 500 school children 14-16 years old. It was very popular and there was little negative comment. There were also the regular museum visitors. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were our representatives and did a fantastic job.

6.5. Coronavirus

The Home Office have contacted the Establishment Licence Holder to remind holders of the requirements for contingency planning, emergency response, and business continuity planning.

7. Any other business

7.1. Response to RSPCA lay members forum letter of 16 Dec

[REDACTED] attended a meeting with other licenced establishments who agree that the new ASPeL system does not make the generation of good licences easy. The matter is ongoing and may lead to changes in the system.

7.2. Animal research website

As mentioned in 6.3 the external facing website contains a lot of useful information, much of which other institutes do not do.

The site can be hard to find and [REDACTED] is working on improvements including making the site more visible.

[REDACTED] would like to include a page for harms and benefits which very few establishments do.

The website is the only in the country that has a virtual tour of the animal facility.

If you have not visited the site the link is below:

<https://www.manchester.ac.uk/research/environment/governance/ethics/animals/>

7.3. Notes from compliance meeting 21 February 2020

Agreed that the Research Compliance Committee (RCC) report completed by the Director of the BSF on a quarterly basis would be submitted to the preceding AWERB meeting.

The next meeting will be on 16 April at 10am-12pm,
in [REDACTED].

Dates of meetings for the 2019/2020 academic year are:

[REDACTED]

Dates of meetings for the 2020/2021 academic year are:

