

ANIMAL WELFARE AND ETHICAL REVIEW BODY

Minutes of the meeting held on 9 July 2020 via Zoom

Present:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Apologies:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

1. Minutes

Agreed: That the minutes of the meeting held on 28 May 2020 were approved.

2. Applications for New Project Licences

2.1. [REDACTED], Mechanisms of Diabetes-Associated Heart Disease ([REDACTED])

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

Interviewed: [REDACTED]

Discussed:

- The committee discussed that 10% of blood to be collected appears a lot. The applicant explained that this amount is rarely taken and a few drops is usually all that is taken. The NVS explained that maximum amounts are often higher than is required to ensure that limits allowed by the Project Licence are not exceeded.

Revisions:

- P26. Continued use/re-use. When you say that animals will be recruited following local ethical review, please clarify if you mean the origin institution.

- P27. Fasting period. Please update this to 6 hours as discussed in the meeting.
- Please clarify if any pain relief is given prior to/during/or after the intraperitoneal injection.
- Six blood samples taken in a single day seems like a lot. Will they all be from the same site? Is repeat testing distressing for the animals? Is there a way to do repeat testing which minimises distress? (Pages 22, 24,27)
- Page 15. It states that STZ will be freshly prepared for each mouse to prevent variation - surely this could introduce variation, especially if injecting a group of mice at the same time? Please justify why this is the correct thing to do.
- STZ can be quite a difficult model, with mice demonstrating an all or nothing response. Will the 'success' rate of inducing diabetes be assessed early on in the project? Have power calculations taken into account a % of mice will either not develop hyperglycemia or will need to be culled due to excessive blood glucose concentration?
- P22. Why is glucose being administered i.p rather than p.o.?
- P23. Please provide some information regarding at what age STZ injections will start and then how long mice are kept for - I would assume mice need to be mature enough to sustain weight loss over a significant period of time? Will STZ mice be monitored twice weekly for weight etc? In my experience they can deteriorate quite rapidly.
- Reduction - The applicant doesn't mention the use of randomisation or blinding when assigning mice to groups and analysing samples. Will these be used throughout the studies at all? [REDACTED]).
- A number of comments were made regarding your Non-Technical Summary which are listed below. Please update your NTS based on the comments and send it to the following lay members for their review [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED])
 - What is proposed to be done to the animals: This needs to be described as it appears in protocols 2,3 &4. The longitudinal studies in which the animals are allowed to recover need to be included.
 - Refinement: Reference to the 3Rs required. Longitudinal studies welfare of animals required
 - A well written and concise NTS- but would like to see more details in the harms section on fasting, blood tests and gavage. It would be helpful to read what is being done to the animals in terms of ECG, blood pressure, echocardiogram etc- and this could go in the harms section.

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. Mid-term review requiring licence holder attendance at the meeting

3.1. [REDACTED], Skin homeostasis and wound healing

Considered: A completed mid-term review form

Interviewed: [REDACTED]

- Discussed:*
- The Committee discussed with the applicant the reason for the numbers of animals used to date being a lot less than was planned.
 - The time of day for creating the wound was discussed. The applicant explained they try to do 1 animal per group first.
 - The reasons for an animal entering the Severe category was discussed and related to different strains of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* being provided from Public Health England.

Revisions: None

Outcome: AWERB approval for continuation of the work.

4. Retrospective Review not requiring licence holder attendance at the meeting

4.1. [REDACTED] Pregnancy Complications: Targeted Interventions

Considered: A completed end of licence review form.

- Feedback:*
- Please can you provide information on what is going to happen to the raw data? Is it being made available to other researchers?
 - This piece of work sounds as though it would be suitable for external communications and could be a good case study highlighting the value of animal research etc. If you would like to discuss this please contact [REDACTED] ([REDACTED]) who is a Media Relations Officer in the Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health.
 - The committee noted that some of the publications you provided did not have your name on. Please can you clarify this.

5. Report on licences processed from 08/05/2020 to 24/06/2020

The following amendments were approved by the executive committee.

5.1. Amendments to Project Licences

- [REDACTED] Type 2 Inflammation in Health & Disease.
- [REDACTED] Neural Basis of Tactile Behaviour.

6. Update on applications outstanding from previous meetings

6.1. [REDACTED], Extracellular Matrix Mediated Control of Immune Cell Recruitment & Positioning in Health & Disease.

To report: Submitted in draft form to the Home Office

6.2. [REDACTED], Assessing Novel Treatments for Endometriosis

To report: Returned with comments by the Home Office

7. Upcoming project licence applications

To ensure the pathway to applicants attending an AWERB meeting is as smooth as possible this item has been added to the agenda and will be a standing item.

[REDACTED] reported that there are 12 applicants in various stages of drafting in the online system. At future meetings [REDACTED] will provide a document to show this information.

The system for contacting current project licence holders is in place between the Secretary for AWERB and [REDACTED] in the BSF. [REDACTED] will be monitoring if current licence holders are adhering to the schedule.

Researchers who are submitting a Project Licence for the first time are slightly more difficult to track. The BSF need to know if new appointments are planning animal work so that the researchers can be given the deadlines asap. [REDACTED] will speak with the Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health about how to ensure new appointments are made aware of the requirement to contact the BSF as soon as possible when they arrive.

8. Standard Condition 18s

Four Standard Condition 18s have been sent to the Home Office since the last AWERB meeting and details of 3 of these were provided to the committee via a report.

The Director of the BSF verbally updated the committee on the fourth which had occurred after circulation of the papers. A mouse underwent intraocular injection under general anaesthetic on the 18-06-20 and was found dead on 21-06-2020. Cause of death is unknown. The BSF are awaiting feedback from the Home Office.

9. NACWO report

The phased return of researchers into labs is taking place.

The rota pattern for BSF staff has now been updated to be 2 rotas, with staff working 3 days on and 3 days off, over 7 days a week. The usual working pattern is being considered for the end of July.

10. NVS report

Very little experimental work happening at present. As it increases the NVS will attend the BSF more frequently.

11. NW region AWERB hub

Next meeting due to be held in Manchester in November.

12. NC3Rs Regional Programme Manager update

12.1. New webpage for NC3Rs

A new webpage has been created which pulls together all resources from different organisations which applicants might find helpful when drafting a project licence. A webinar is taking place about this and 300 people are registered to attend. The link will be circulated to members.

12.2. New ARRIVE guidelines

The new ARRIVE guidelines will be published next week along with a new website. Jo will give a presentation to UoM researchers about this in the future.

13. Any other business

13.1.

[REDACTED]

13.2. Culling of animals during lockdown

The Chair received a communication from the Animals in Science Regulation Unit (ASRU) regarding the culling of animals during lockdown and if AWERB should be reviewing the culls.

The next meeting will be on 27 August 2020 at 10am-12pm

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

8 October 2020

Wednesday 18 November 2020

21 Jan 2021

4 March 2021 - no licences to be seen this meeting. AWERB processes meeting.

15 April 2021

27 May 2021

8 July 2021

19 August 2021 - no licences to be seen this meeting. AWERB processes meeting.

30 September 2021