

ANIMAL WELFARE AND ETHICAL REVIEW BODY

Minutes of the meeting held on 27 August 2020

Present:

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

1. Minutes

Agreed: That the minutes of the meeting held on 9 July 2020 were approved.

2. Applications for New Project Licences

2.1. [REDACTED], Circadian regulation of pulmonary immunity

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

Interviewed: [REDACTED]

- Revisions:*
- In protocol 1 (page 28 and following) all the steps seemed to be optional. Please discuss with the BSF/Home Office if at least one has to be mandatory.
 - On page 63 under Animal experience, the submission states that animals will 'usually' enter Step 7. Step 7 is declared as mandatory so all should follow that step. Later in the same section it says that, for Pilot studies steps may be carried out in the absence of Step 7. Please can you clarify this in the application.
 - On page 117 under Protocol Details the second sentence seems to have gone awry. I am not sure how "ventilation to model ventilation in humans" makes sense.
 - Page 3, Aims - "Pulmonary responses to immune challenge" is not non-technical, even if the terms are explained in the following section.
 - Page 5, How will you look... - Typo in line 2
 - Page 7, Fate of animals - Is there some reference to Schedule 1 required after "killed"?
 - Page 10, First paragraph - Adrenalectomy is not non-technical

- Third paragraph – Again, for the non-specialist reader, it is not clear what is being done/ what is expected: e.g. “bleomycin induced fibrosis”
- P30/139 - One refinement which might be useful is to provide analgesia in jelly - this also helps provide fluids to the animals.
- P108, States substances administered under general anaesthetic may be given up to twice a day for up to 7 weeks - this seems a long time, does the applicant have experience of this? If so were any adverse events noted?
- Under adverse effects, can you explain why weight loss will be transient as the animal adjusts to a new regime. Will weight loss reverse while on the same regime?
- P10, In refinement it might be nice to explain what form of additional environmental enrichment will be used.
- P140, Description of circadian clock very helpful and clear; but could "normal homeostasis" be replaced by something less specialist? "normal working of the immune system"?
- P140, pulmonary immunity - could this mean "pulmonary responses to disease" or immune responses within the pulmonary system" or something like this just to unpack the meaning for the lay reader.
- Please consider making the use of juveniles protocol specific as discussed in the meeting.
- Please discuss some of the humane end points with the NVS.
- Please consider explaining aerosolised LPS in the NTS.

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. Applications for Amendments to Project Licences requiring full committee review

3.1. [REDACTED], The role of inflammation in cerebrovascular disease ([REDACTED])

Considered: A Home Office amendment summary sheet and PPL highlighted in the sections requiring amendment.

Interviewed: [REDACTED]

Revisions:

- As per the discussion at the meeting, AWERB advise that the choice of antibiotic is reconsidered. The choice of vancomycin is curious since this is not the first line antibiotic that is used clinically to treat pneumococcal infections, rather amoxicillin or in more serious infections cefotaxime is used. As such some better justification of why vancomycin will be used should be made.

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

4. Mid-term and retrospective reviews not requiring licence holder attendance at the meeting

4.1. [REDACTED], Glucocorticoids and stress in the development of diabetes and obesity (mid-term review)

Considered: A completed mid-term review form

- Discussed:*
- The form was very clear and AWERB thank [REDACTED] for providing this.
 - A committee member queried the finding of dead animals that were not used in any procedure. The BSF staff explained that with breeding, sometimes animals do die of natural causes.

Revisions: None

Outcome: AWERB approval for continuation of the work.

4.2. [REDACTED], Understanding inflammasome dependent inflammation (mid-term review)

Considered: A completed mid-term review form

- Discussed:*
- The required ARRIVE checklist for each publication listed in Section 8 of the form were not appended to the review form.

Actions: AWERB Secretary to ask for an ARRIVE checklist for one of the listed publications.

Outcome: AWERB approval for continuation of the work.

4.3. [REDACTED], Creating a Novel Localised Drug Delivery System to Treat Endometriosis (end of licence review)

Considered: A completed end of licence review form

- Discussed:* It was noted that the number of animals used in the licence was much lower than the number granted for the licence. This discrepancy was potentially due to the pilot nature of the work. The results have provided data for a follow-on licence, allowing the number of animals required to be more accurately determined.

Clarifications: None

Actions: None

4.4. [REDACTED], The contribution of mast cells mediators in inflammatory skin diseases (end-of-licence review).

Considered: A completed end of licence review form

- Discussed:* The committee feel that it is important that the negative work is not repeated by other groups due to the negative results.

Actions: The Secretary of AWERB will contact the licence holder to ask if there are plans for publishing the negative results from the study.

5. Responses from Project Licence holders regarding queries from mid-term/end-of-licence reviews (for information only)

5.1. [REDACTED], Pregnancy Complications: Targeted Interventions.

5.2. [REDACTED], Circadian mechanisms underlying organ rejection.

6. Report on licences processed from 25/06/2020 to 05/08/2020

The following amendments were approved by the executive committee.

6.1. Amendments to Project Licences

[REDACTED], Maternal Fasting & Offspring Health
[REDACTED], Fish Physiology in an Era of Climate Change
[REDACTED], Designing Therapeutic & Diagnostic
Nanotechnologies for Medicine
[REDACTED], Brain Networks for Memory & Executive Function in Health &
Disease
[REDACTED], Treatment & Penetrance Of Inherited Cardiac Conditions

6.2. Amendments to Project Licence [REDACTED], Breeding and Maintenance of Genetically Altered Rodents

[REDACTED] Transfer PPL Holder [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

7. Update on applications outstanding from previous meetings and upcoming Project Licence applications

Noted: A submitted report covered the status of applications considered at previous meetings and those that are in the process of being drafted.

Reported: The Home Office suggested that if any licences contain a service element that this should be split from any research element and submitted as two licences.

8. NACWO report

Reported:

- More people are now coming back onto site. Breeding is increasing but not to the levels pre-lockdown, so it appears that licence holders have taken on-board the requirement to keep stock at manageable levels.
- Several comments have been made to Health & Safety and how good the BSF have been in terms of ensuring social distancing.

9. NVS report

Reported:

- No concerns about animal welfare or husbandry.

10. Standard Conditions 18s

Noted:

- Three Standard Conditions 18s were reported since the last meeting.

- Reported:*
- Linking theme is body weight. A number of new scales have been purchased and the weighing of high risk animals more regularly is taking place, therefore more issues are being reported.

11. NC3Rs Regional Programme Manager update

- Reported:*
- A number of technicians at the BSF have been highlighted in a double page feature on their work during lockdown.
 - There are new video clips on mouse handling on the NC3Rs website and they are championing units that are using the new techniques.
 - There is a webinar series currently taking place. Yesterday's topic was compassion fatigue. Results showed no link between species and levels of compassion fatigue.
 - All licence holders receive information from the NC3Rs Regional Programme Manager on a regular basis, and many University of Manchester staff participate in NC3Rs activities.
 - RSPCA lay members forum will be split into four regional forums. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] are participating in the forums.

12. Any other business

12.1. Updated minutes from extra meeting held on 31 July 2020.

Breeding guidelines ([REDACTED]) and retrospective review ([REDACTED]) will be considered at the next meeting on 8 October 2020.

12.2. PPL email to current licence holders

AWERB Secretary will amend the email as per [REDACTED] comments.

12.3. Update email to applicants to explain that there are sections on the Home Office form that self-populate into the NTS and it is advised they make a note of these as they fill in the form.

Update to be provided at the next meeting ([REDACTED])

12.4. Update adverse event document provided to applicants for project licences

Update to be provided at the next meeting ([REDACTED])

12.5. Mentoring system.

Update to be provided at the next meeting ([REDACTED])

12.6. AWERB feedback

A discussion took place about how to obtain feedback from applicants who have been to AWERB. [REDACTED] reported that there was a working group which she sat on which created a survey which institutions can use as a basis of any feedback they want to receive.

12.7. Teaching project licence.

A discussion took place about how the undergraduate *in vivo* practical class that uses the teaching licence will be run this semester. Due to the coronavirus the Home Office course in April was not completed as usual. Material will be provided online. Course organisers are going to be looking at measures to determine if learning can be achieved without the use of animals, which would be a major refinement.

12.8. Retrospective review

The AWERB Secretary will circulate the form and ask for comments on the form and process prior to the next meeting. Comments will be collated and circulated before the next meeting in order to focus the discussion at the meeting.

**The next meeting will be on Wednesday 18 November 2020 at 10am-12pm,
Via Zoom.**

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

8 October 2020

Wednesday 18 November 2020

21 Jan 2021

4 March 2021

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