MANCHESTER 1824
The University of Manchester

ANIMAL WELFARE AND ETHICAL REVIEW BODY

Minutes of the meeting held on 19 August 2021

Present: [redacted]

Apologies: [redacted]

In attendance: [redacted]

1. **Minutes**

Agreed: That the minutes of the meeting held on 8 July 2021 were approved.

2. **Applications for New Project Licences**

2.1. [redacted], Preclinical Evaluation of Cancer Therapeutics.

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

Interviewed: [redacted]

Discussed:
- The number of imaging sessions that an animal will have over a 24 hour period.
- How the welfare of the animals is taken into account during recovery from anaesthesia including animals being kept in a warming chamber and provided with mash.

- The proportion of studies that are published by your clients, including if you have observed a change in the proportion of studies that are being published.

Revisions:

- Please include some information about how you will quantify if something seems 'slightly' ulcerated as you explained in the meeting.
- Page 28 of 149. Please review the wording of the sentence to ensure it reads correctly.
- Page 74 of 149. Please review the sentence beginning "Conditioning with the immunosuppressive agent...", as the last part (beginning increase tumour take) could be clearer. This sentence also appears on page 99 and 140 so any changes will need to be made there.
- 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]
    - Page 5 of 149. 'Typically what will be done'. In-vivo imaging could be succinct. The reference to the Protocols is not required, as the NTS should be able to be a 'stand-alone' document.
    - Page 6 of 149. 'What are the expected outcomes'. This section may benefit from being briefer.
    - The section 'What measures, apart from experimental design…' could be more succinct.
    - Refinement section would benefit by being shorter and less technical.

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], Understanding Endogenous Protective Mechanisms in Osteoarthritis; Towards a New Approach For Disease Management.

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

Interviewed: [redacted]

Discussed:

- The use of sham animals and your preference to avoid the use of sham animals where possible.
- The alternative method of delivery of tamoxifen.
- The use of pilot studies including for the gait analysis.

Revisions:

- Page 22 of 58. Please check with the BSF staff regarding the answer 'yes' to continued use.
- Page 46 of 58. Please clarify if the 400 animals includes controls.
- Page 54 of 58. Please can you include how many time points there will be and at what stage of the experiment you will take the data.
- 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]

- Page 6 of 58. Replacement section – why do you need to use animals. This section could benefit from redrafting, focussing on including the information in paragraph 3.
- The section 'What non-animal alternatives...' could be more succinct.
- Do the mice usually recover from hunched posture, piloerection, loss of appetite after administration of Tamoxifen? (The text mentions they usually recover their weight loss but not the other adverse effects). If so, would be good to be a bit clearer.
- Refinement section. Please consider including something about use of postoperative analgesia.

Outcome: The study was given provisional approval based on the applicant making the changes/clarifications listed above to the satisfaction of the Chair/AWERB and reporting on pilot work to the Local Management Committee.

3. Retrospective review of Project Licences requiring full committee review

3.1. [redacted], New therapeutic approaches for inflammatory joint disorders.

Considered: Retrospective Assessment questions from Home Office ASPeL website.

Interviewed: [redacted]

Discussed: This licence transferred to [redacted] from [redacted].

4. Mid-term reviews requiring full committee review

4.1. [redacted], [redacted] New therapeutic approaches for inflammatory joint disorders.

Considered: Mid-term review form

Interviewed: [redacted]

Discussed: This licence is a continuation licence from [redacted] considered above.

Outcome: Approval for continued work.

4.2. [redacted], Determining important regulatory pathways that control immune responses to infection.

Considered: Mid-term review form

Interviewed: [redacted]

Discussed: The Committee discussed with the licence holder the statement that they have 'aimed to minimise the number of experiments performed where

they require mice to reach day 7 post-infection, and have strived to find interventions to promote less severe infection (and have done so in the case of CD200R agonists and reduction of ILC2 numbers)...' and also the reduction in surplus breeding.

Request for information: The Committee asked the licence holder to provide data for the following which will be circulated to the committee by the Secretary once received:

- The projected and actual number of animals for each of the severity bands.
- The number of animals bred to quantify the reduced breeding.

Outcome: Approval for continued work.

5. Report on licences processed from 25/06/2021 to 23/07/2021

The following amendments were approved by the executive committee.

5.1. Amendments to Project Licences

[redacted], Mechanistic Studies of Fungal Infection & Routes to New Therapies

[redacted], Evaluation of Cognitive Function in Animal Models

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

[redacted], Understanding Vision & Developing Therapies for Blindness

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

6.1. The committee were provided with a document showing the status of applications considered previously and those pencilled in for future meetings.

7. NACWO report

7.1. The committee were provided with an update on the purchasing of the new alert system.

7.2. A discussion took place regarding the need for a large amount of investment to be made to ensure the current system and temperature controls are efficient.

7.3. Monthly meetings are taking place between the BSF senior staff and the estates team.

8. Research Compliance Committee report

8.1. An update was provided regarding increasing staff in the BSF. Permission has been granted to recruit one full time technician and a number of agency staff. The Deputy Director is hopeful that the agency staff can be moved to full time positions at a later stage.

9. NVS report

9.1. [redacted] reported that the administration of analgesia orally rather than via injections is being implemented and the animals are taking to it well.

10. Standard Conditions 18s

10.1. ASRU are giving more feedback since the change programme implemented by the Home Office which saw the introduction of a team of people dealing with Standard Conditions 18s and non-compliances.

10.2. A discussion took place regarding the type of issues that are reported as Standard Conditions 18s.

10.3. [redacted] reported that in the current newsletter from ASRU there was training relating to Standard Conditions 18s

11. NC3Rs Regional Programme Manager update

Funding

1 – [redacted] has been awarded an NC3Rs project grant. The title of his project is 'Development of a new human model of lung squamous cell carcinoma progression', this work will be looking to replace the use of animals with an in vitro model of lung cancer.

Events

2 – The NC3RS and IAT are holding a joint online symposium on the 11th and 12th of October. Topics will include handling, breeding and genotyping as well as an expert panel discussion session. The event is primarily aimed at junior technicians – register online by 10th October.

Resources

3 – The NC3Rs has launched a new Animal-free in vitro technologies resource. This is aimed at in vitro researchers who'd like to move to using animal-free reagents. This includes alternatives to animal-derived antibodies, culture media and scaffolds. The resource includes case studies, lists of suppliers and more.

The next meeting will be on 30 September 2021 at 10am-12pm.

Dates of meetings for the 2021/2022 academic year are:

11 November 2021
16 December 2021
3 February 2022
17 March 2022
28 April 2022
9 June 2022
21 July 2022
1 September 2022