

**3Rs subgroup for the  
ANIMAL WELFARE AND ETHICAL REVIEW BODY**

**Minutes of the meeting held on 23 March 2022**

Present:



Apologies:



**1. Minutes**

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

**2. Retrospective reviews of Project Licences requiring licence holder attendance at meeting**

**2.1. [REDACTED], MK2 as a regulator of inflammation in Alzheimer's**

*Considered:* A completed Retrospective review form and presentation

*Interviewed:* [REDACTED]

- Discussed:*
- Animals are handled for a week before the experiment.
  - The committee asked why male only animals were used in the behavioural experiments. The licence holder explained that females were used for cell cultures and males for behavioural tests but they will be including both sexes for future work.

**2.2. [REDACTED], Skin homeostasis and wound healing**

*Considered:* A completed Retrospective review form and presentation

*Interviewed:* [REDACTED]

- Discussed:*
- The licence holder explained how working with the statistician helped with the work from the experimental design point of view.
  - Discussions had taken place about the use of two wounds per mouse and using one silver dressing and one dressing without silver, and if

the silver from one dressing would leech into the other. Less animals than predicted were used for the final objective due to changes in ownership / management, and increased access to clinical trials

**2.3. [REDACTED], Circadian regulation of processes underlying chronic inflammation**

*Considered:* A completed Retrospective review form and presentation

*Interviewed:* [REDACTED]

- Discussed:*
- Objectives 3 and 5 are being further investigated on a new licence.
  - The licence holder explained how dissemination of information takes place during conferences and meetings with the charity Versus Arthritis. Specifically, the experience surrounding the K/BxN model, in that the mice experience a very rapid disease development and suffer more significantly than mice used in the other models of arthritis, could be shared with other researchers at these meetings.
  - The refinement concerning reduction of skin ulcers was discussed and will be used on the new licence.
  - Further discussions need to take place on the new licence regarding the use of analgesics.
  - The licence holder was asked if they have noticed reduced variability in their results due to tunnel handling. Whilst they have not noticed this in their results, they did report the animals appear less stressed.
  - The licence holder explained that it is getting easier to adhere to the ARRIVE guidelines as journals now expect to have this information included in the publication.

**3. Mid-term reviews of Project Licences not requiring licence holder attendance at meeting**

**3.1. [REDACTED], Mechanistic studies of fungal infection and routes to new therapies**

*Considered:* A completed mid-term review form

- Discussed:*
- The committee wanted further information on the reported large reduction of animal use during testing fungal pathogenicity. [REDACTED] to contact [REDACTED] to find out more and will report back.

*Outcome:* The subgroup supported continued work on this licence.

**3.2. [REDACTED], How does sinus node disease maintain atrial fibrillation? A study of electrical and structural changes in the heart**

*Considered:* A completed mid-term review form

- Discussed:*
- The committee raised some concerns regarding the SC18 that had been submitted. [REDACTED] was able to provide some clarity post-meeting. He advised that little work had been done on this project. An internal review of the SC18 revealed the issue arose due to an anatomical abnormality which could not have been foreseen, and is unlikely to occur again. Further investigation by the BSF Compliance Assurance Committee will be completed.

*Outcome:* The subgroup supported continued work on this licence.

3.3.

██████████, ██████████,  
██████████, Central regulation of appetite and body weight  
██████████, Control of arousal and autonomic output from the brain  
██████████, Anorexia and cachexia in ageing and disease

*Considered:* A completed mid-term review form

*Discussed:* • The committee were happy to consider one form covering ██████████  
██████████ three licences, given the close nature of the work. There  
were no concerns or questions about the work completed so far.

*Outcome:* The subgroup supported continued work on this licence.

#### 4. University of Manchester 3Rs strategy

The BSF completed a 3Rs self-assessment tool designed to gather information on the current status of the 3Rs within the establishment. The feedback produced from the self-assessment was used to create a 3Rs strategy. This strategy is currently in draft form and feedback on the document is being sought from stakeholders.

#### 5. AOB

##### 5.1. Be Open About Animal Research Day

The second edition of Be Open About Animal Research Day (#BOARD22) will take place on Thursday, 16 June 2022 and ██████████ is signed up for it. Case studies are going to be produced for our website.

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The next meeting will be held on 22 June 2022, at 2-4pm, via Zoom